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The Honorable Senator Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

June 6, 2016

Dear Senator King,

As President of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I am writing to you on behalf of our 7,000+ members to express our support for your new piece of legislation, the *Strengthening Mosquito Abatement Safety and Health (SMASH) Act of 2016*. We enthusiastically offer our endorsement of this important and timely bill.

The mosquito species capable of transmitting the Zika virus are distributed throughout much of the nation and, as travelers continue to bring the virus home from overseas, all of the elements required for a major outbreak of Zika virus in the United States are in place. Controlling the mosquitoes that transmit the Zika virus is an immediate and cost-effective action that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak within our borders. The *SMASH Act* will facilitate mosquito control in four important ways: supporting local government efforts in vector control by authorizing matching federal funds to complement local efforts; building capacity through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Enhanced Laboratory Capacity program; assisting with data collection efforts for already registered vector control pesticides; and enhancing data collection for new vector control products. This comprehensive approach is exactly the strategy needed to manage this threat and to maximize the probability of averting a major health crisis.

As an organization, ESA supports the Administration's supplemental request for additional funds to prevent the spread of Zika in the United States. However, passage of the *SMASH Act* would authorize funds for a more sustainable and comprehensive approach to vector management; based on decades of entomological science and practice, ESA recognizes the value of this investment, both to reduce the immediate threat of Zika and to provide proactive protection against emerging mosquito-borne diseases that have yet to cross our borders.

ESA welcomes the opportunity to provide additional scientific consultation to your office, or any other that may require entomological expertise to devise or assess policy. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Thank you again for your attention to and your thoughtful and decisive action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "May B. Berenbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

May Berenbaum, PhD  
Swanlund Professor and Head  
Department of Entomology  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
President, Entomological Society of America