November 29, 2016

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reed,

On behalf of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) and our more than 7,000 members, I am writing to express our support for your legislation, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016. We enthusiastically offer our endorsement for this important and timely bill.

The resources provided by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are invaluable to the education and success of American communities. Budget proposals in recent years that have recommended eliminating or significantly reducing funding for IMLS are concerning to members of the Society. At a time when information is increasingly published and stored digitally, IMLS is more critical than ever to create shared research resources and for training students to become investigators and intellectual leaders, and to ensure that scientific organizations and educational institutions continue to produce reputable and transformational research.

As an organization, ESA supports the request to reauthorize funding levels for the agency, which would expand research, collections, and training capabilities for libraries and museums, highlighting the importance of quality educational resources. By authorizing the 21st Century Museum Professional Program, IMLS would provide opportunities for diverse and underrepresented populations to enter the field of museum professionals and augment participation in an industry with an annual economic contribution of approximately $21 billion. We are encouraged by the bipartisan support in the Senate and appreciate that, if passed, it would increase collaboration at the state and regional level and encourage interagency partnerships to maximize the societal benefits of federal dollars. Libraries and Museums are an integral part of the nation’s academic infrastructure and make significant long-term contributions to economic development in local communities, and ESA recognizes the inherent value of this investment.

ESA welcomes the opportunity to provide additional consultation on scientific collections and museums to your office, or on any other scientific matter 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,

Susan J. Weller, Ph.D.  
President, ESA