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The Honorable Rodney Davis
1740 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
228 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 23, 2017

Dear Representative Panetta and Representative Davis,

On behalf of the more than 6,000 members of the Entomological Society of America (ESA), I thank you for establishing the Congressional Agriculture Research Caucus.

ESA is the largest organization in the world serving the professional and scientific needs of entomologists and individuals in related disciplines. Founded in 1889, ESA is a not-for-profit professional society affiliated with educational institutions, private industry, government agencies, and other non-profits. ESA's public and science policy initiatives focus on raising the importance of entomology, especially in the area of agriculture research.

Specifically, the Society has been a long-time supporter of federally-funded research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including the intramural and extramural work funded by the Agricultural Research Service, the Forest Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), especially NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.

ESA recognizes the difficult fiscal environment our nation faces, but – like you – we believe that sustained investments in agricultural research are a critical step toward economic recovery and continued global competitiveness. Several of our key agriculture research priorities include improving pollinator health, combating invasive species, and promoting integrated pest management.

Again, I thank you both for your leadership in highlighting the crucial role of agriculture research and look forward to working with the caucus to promote bipartisan and science-based policy. Please do not hesitate to contact me or ESA's representatives in Washington, D.C. if you have any questions or would like more information on the Society's priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan J. Weller".

Susan J. Weller, Ph.D.
2017 President, Entomological Society of America
Director & Professor, University of Nebraska State Museum