



Ecological Society of America  
1990 M Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

---

November 22, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
H-232 The Capitol  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
233 Cannon H.O.B  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Reid:

On behalf of the Ecological Society of America, the world's largest society of professional ecologists, we thank you for all of your hard work crafting the FY17 appropriations bills. **We strongly encourage you to complete the FY17 appropriations process this year and avoid continuing resolutions that will hinder our nation's scientific enterprise.** Under a continuing resolution, agencies are unable to award new grants, plan new missions, and budget appropriately. Continuing resolutions stifle American innovation and competitiveness and cost our federal science agencies valuable time, money, and resources.

Additionally, while we recognize the fiscal constraints facing Congress, we are concerned about the essentially flat funding for NSF, NOAA, USGS, and biological science programs within the Department of Energy.

Strong, robust, and predictable investment in America's scientific enterprise remains one of the surest ways to encourage economic growth, increase the safety of our nation and its citizens, and advance our understanding of the world around us.

Thank you for your support for the ecological and biological sciences, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the American scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David M. Lodge  
ESA President