



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

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October 28, 2014

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
House Science, Space and Technology Committee  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Johnson:

The Ecological Society of America commends you for the September 30, 2014 letter expressing concern about Chairman Lamar Smith's unprecedented investigation into the National Science Foundation's (NSF) merit-review process for research grants.

We hope that our elected Members of Congress will seek out consensus efforts to ensure that America remains at the forefront of scientific research. Innovation is a key to economic competitiveness and the technological breakthroughs that improve our lives. Federal investment in all fields of science, including behavioral and social science research, is important. Basic research fuels technological innovations and is critical in fostering the vitality of the U.S. science and technology enterprise and the growth of highly-skilled jobs.

While it is typical for elected officials to set priorities for investments in research, there has been a longstanding tradition of bipartisan discretion given to NSF's nonpartisan merit-review system to prevent the peer-review process from becoming tainted by political motivations. Compromising the integrity of the existing merit-review system would hinder the ability of scientists to pursue research that benefits our society.

We are grateful for your efforts to preserve the integrity of the peer-review process and continue to hope that the House Science, Space and Technology Committee can move forward on bipartisan legislation that reaffirms America's commitment towards prioritizing the advancement of scientific research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Inouye", written in a cursive style.

Dr. David W. Inouye  
President