



American Public Gardens  
Association

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November 10, 2009

Dr. John Holdren, Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
725 17th Street Room 5228  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren:

On behalf of the American Public Gardens Association, I write to express strong support for the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance) proposed Executive Order for issuance by President Obama to promote the preservation and use of scientific collections.

Our nation's natural science collections are irreplaceable resources that enable us to understand the world in which we live. These collections not only help us understand the biological and physical history of earth, they also are essential to our ability to understand our world today and its place in the changing future.

The American Public Gardens Association represents 500 public gardens throughout the United States. We serve and strengthen public gardens throughout North America by supporting and promoting their work, value and achievements in horticultural display, education, research and plant conservation. Botanical Gardens are home to vast collections of plants that play an ever increasing role in the nation's scientific research.

The proposed Executive Order sends a strong message to the Botanical Garden Community that the Obama Administration is aware of the important role our institutions play in the nation's scientific research and education enterprise. We fully support any endeavor that places a value on scientific collections.

Sincerely,

Nicola Ripley  
Board President, APGA  
Director of Horticulture and Research, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens