



NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE

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March 12, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman, House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

On behalf of the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC Alliance), thank you for your leadership on our national response to the current COVID-19 epidemic.

As Congress considers the responses to the economic costs of COVID-19, we request that you include in any economic recovery measure non-profit natural history museums, botanical gardens, and other scientific societies and research organizations which are an integral part of the nation's bioeconomy and serve as resources with respect to understanding animal/human pathogen interactions. These scientific research and education organizations are suffering economic losses as a result of the need to cancel scientific meetings, workshops, and to reduce, postpone or cancel public programs, including educational programs associated with schools and other civic organizations.

Most natural history organizations are non-profits that operate on tight budgets with limited capacity to absorb abrupt and significant losses of revenue, such as that generated from public visitation and engagement in programs.

Scientific societies and organizations have been at the forefront of the public response to COVID-19. Often, cancelling programs to reduce exposure risks prior to any request or directive from government and public health officials.

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a non-profit membership organization representing natural history museums, botanic gardens, and other scientific collections and the people that make, curate, and support these collections.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jbates@fieldmuseum.org if we can be of assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Bates".

John Bates, Ph.D.
President