

## SCIENCE & COLLECTIONS FUNDING

- Provided congressional testimony in support of sustained fiscal year (FY) 2026 federal funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), programs that curate natural history collections within the Department of the Interior, and the Smithsonian Institution.
- Successfully opposed proposals to eliminate IMLS by coordinating a joint letter to Congress signed by 74 professional societies and organizations and launching a grassroots letter-writing campaign that enabled individuals to urge their members of Congress to take immediate action. These efforts helped secure bipartisan support for IMLS in the FY 2026 appropriations process.
- Joined more than 70 other scientific societies in sending a letter to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Congress expressing full support for the Ecosystems Mission Area within the U.S. Geological Survey, which was slated for termination by President Trump. EMA also has bipartisan support in FY 2026 funding bills.
- Through our membership in the Coalition for National Science Funding—an alliance of more than 140 scientific organizations that advocate for NSF funding—we urged appropriators to provide at least \$9.9 billion for NSF in FY 2026.

## COLLECTIONS POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- Provided comments on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) reorganization plan, which calls for closing the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center—home to the U. S. National Fungus Collection and the USDA Nematode Collection.
  - Submitted joint comments with SPNHC to augment the draft International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) position statement on the vital role of natural history museums, herbaria, and scientific collections (NHMCs) in biodiversity monitoring and conservation.
  - Joined the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and 50 other scientific societies and organizations in sending a letter to congressional leaders urging them to oppose executive actions harmful to the U.S. scientific enterprise.
  - Joined more than 75 organizations in a letter urging greater transparency and oversight regarding potential Reduction-in-Force and reorganization plans for federal agencies critical to our nation's scientific enterprise and public health infrastructure.
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- Joined a coalition of more than 50 scientific societies in a letter to Congress about the “Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking” Executive Order urging necessary oversight at federal science agencies to protect the integrity of the independent, merit-based peer-review system.
- Joined more than 100 organizations in urging Congress to protect the tax-exempt status of nonprofit organizations.
- Joined 19 other scientific societies in submitting a joint response to the White House proposed rule, commonly known as “Schedule F,” to reclassify and strip traditional civil service protections from federal workers involved in policy-making roles.
- Sponsored the 2025 Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits, an annual event organized by AIBS that enables scientists, curators, museum professionals, and graduate students to meet with their federal or state elected officials in their home state to help inform science policy.

## OUTREACH

- Joined AIBS and SPNHC in co-hosting an educational webinar on repatriation, exploring ethical and voluntary return of natural history specimens beyond the scope of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).
  - Partnered with BCoN and AIBS on the NSF-funded BIOFAIR Data Network project to engage an expansive set of stakeholders in a series of virtual discussions to develop a community roadmap towards an integrated, open, findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable data network.
  - Continuing to collaborate with national and international partners as a member of the International Partners for the Digital Extended Specimen (IPDES) to champion a globally integrated network of stakeholders to build an extensible technical and social infrastructure of data, tools, and working practices in support of the Digital Extended Specimen vision.
  - Promoted National Fossil Day, which is organized by the National Park Service.
  - Alerted the natural science collections community to advocacy campaigns, opportunities to provide input on policy proposals, and calls to nominate individuals to expert panels.
  - Provided regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is freely available. Subscribe at [www.nscalliance.org](http://www.nscalliance.org).
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# ABOUT US

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The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our institutional members are part of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Visit our website to learn more:

[www.nscalliance.org](http://www.nscalliance.org)

