

American Society of Mammalogists

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President Donald Trump
The White House
United States of America

Dear President Trump,

I write on behalf of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM), the world's largest professional organization devoted to the study of mammals. Formed in 1919, by government scientists from the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, academics, and naturalists, the ASM has become an international organization centered in the Americas but with members and collaborators distributed and working across the globe. Our nearly 3,000 members include federal scientists, academics, non-government scientists, and students from many countries.

As with all science, mammalogy flourishes when data and information are freely exchanged and where ideas and interpretations can be presented for critical evaluation by the scientific community without fear of suppression or retaliation. These dynamic interactions are the lifeblood of science and of scientific progress, and they lead to self-correcting interpretations while incorrect hypotheses and conclusions are winnowed out through rigorous peer review. Science, in turn, provides insights and innovations that keep our production, agriculture, medicine, and understanding of the natural world second to none.

The American Society of Mammalogists is committed to the integrity and impartiality of science because we believe that solid data and sound science are at the very foundation of decisions and policies that affect life on Earth, particularly in this time, when our ability to influence the natural environment is both evident and accelerating. The United States has long been a global leader in scientific innovation, and your administration will play a pivotal role in maintaining that leadership through its support of science and scientific discourse.

On behalf of the American Society of Mammalogists, I urge your administration and Congress to continue to promote leadership in this arena by keeping the United States at the forefront of science

through support of scientific inquiry, and by permitting and fostering an unfettered flow of scientific data, information, ideas, and scientists themselves within the global community of practitioners focused on peaceful pursuits. The ASM stands ready to provide scientific expertise and assist you and your administration in achieving these goals in any way we can be of service.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Sikes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Robert S. Sikes, PhD
President, American Society of Mammalogists