

June 6, 2001

Honorable Representative Vernon J. Ehlers  
1714 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515-2203

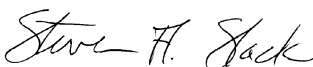
The American Phytopathological Society supports your Bill H.R.64 – Help Strengthen Science at the Environmental Protection Agency. This Bill establishes the position of Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology in EPA.

The American Phytopathological Society (APS), founded in 1909, is the premier educational, professional and scientific society dedicated to the promotion of the plant health and plant disease control for the common good. The Society represents more than 5,000 microbiologists, including scientists and science administrators in academic, industrial and government institutions working in a variety of areas, including applied and environmental plant pathology, food, horticultural and forestry science, and biotechnology, including basic and applied research on producing transgenic plants resistant to pathogens and abiotic stresses.

The American Phytopathological Society strongly favors the utilization of sound science in formulation of public policies. Establishing this position is one definite means of assuring the rapid infusion of appropriate scientific thinking and of sound factual data into EPA decision making. The US State Department has begun to move toward greater scientific understanding across that agency. It would seem even more appropriate that the leadership of EPA have a well-recognized scientist among its top administrators. While public policy cannot be based solely upon science, if policy is not on a sound scientific foundation, it will not serve the public well over the long term.

Thank you for writing and pushing this legislation.

Yours sincerely,



Steven A. Slack  
President, APS