

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT  
Robert and Renée Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs



**John P. Holdren Ph.D.**

*Teresa and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy and  
Co-Director of the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Program*

**john\_holdren@hks.harvard.edu**

*79 John F. Kennedy Street  
Mailbox 53, Cambridge, MA 02138*

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Members of the American Chemical Society

It is a pleasure to convey my enthusiastic endorsement of Willie E. May for the position of President-Elect of the American Chemical Society. I came to know Dr. May well in the course of working closely with him in the Obama Administration, when he was Undersecretary of Commerce and Director of the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) and I was Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Our collaboration included traveling together to a number of official meetings abroad, in connection with the six ministerial-level joint commissions on science and technology cooperation with other nations, for which I chaired the U.S. delegations.

In all of my interactions with him and in watching him interact with others, it was clear that Dr. May is an energetic, effective, committed, and charismatic scientific leader. He is broadly and deeply informed on science and technology matters, articulate in explaining the importance and roles of science and technology in society, and strategic in his thinking. He is a good listener, free of arrogance or abrasiveness, and collegial but also forceful in leadership.

Not surprisingly, given these characteristics, Dr. May did an excellent job as NIST Director. I think he would be great in the top leadership role in the ACS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Holdren".