

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of Dr. Willie E. May's candidacy for President-Elect of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. May is a gifted and energetic leader who has completed a long and distinguished career at the Department of Commerce. Beginning in 1971 as a bench scientist at what is now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), his 45-plus year career led him to the top as the Director of that agency with additional responsibilities as the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology. During his tenure as my Under Secretary, he led NIST's successful efforts to address some of our Nation's most pressing challenges, including technological innovation, advanced manufacturing, forensic science, climate assessment, disaster resilience, and cybersecurity. In addition to his outstanding leadership and technical contributions, he has also been a champion for intellectual and human diversity in the sciences. He has mentored women and underrepresented minorities and a strong supporter of minority technical organizations like the Society of Women Engineers, NOBCCHE, and SCANAS. I and others at the Commerce Department relied heavily on Dr. May's technical insights and executive leadership, and we were never disappointed.

It was clear to me that he had earned the respect and enjoyed the support of a Federal staff of 3400 that includes multiple Nobel Prize Winners among its scientists and engineers. Dr. May was responsible for ensuring that those staff delivered the best possible research and services. He also made certain that the nation and the world benefited from the efforts of approximately 4,000 visiting scientists and engineers from industry, academia and government labs around the globe.

Dr. May was heavily engaged internationally. He did an admirable job representing the Department of Commerce in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's engagement with science policy organizations in China, Korea, and Japan. He also held leadership positions in several international organizations focused on improving a range of measurement standards vital to science and international trade.

I learned by working with him that Dr. May is a seasoned and experienced executive leader who is results-oriented with a winning track record. He has the skills, knowledge, energy, and experience that would enable him to lead the American Chemical Society to even higher levels of excellence and to have a greater impact on science and technology world-wide.

Sincerely,

Penny S. Pritzker

Chairman, PSP Capital Partners

38th Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce