



CITIZEN SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

CitizenScience.org | info@citizenscienceassociation.org | @CitSciAssoc

Board of Directors
Citizen Science Association
c/o Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park
PO Box 277
Winter Harbor, ME 04693

October 20, 2016

The Honorable Patrick McCrory
North Carolina Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor McCrory,

We, the Board of the Citizen Science Association, are writing to explain our decision to move our 2017 conference out of Raleigh, North Carolina. Hosting our conference in Raleigh would have brought more than 1,000 people into the state, provided an opportunity to highlight stellar citizen science efforts led by North Carolina organizations, and helped cement the city's and state's reputation and standing in the rapidly growing arena of citizen science.

Citizen Science is a way of conducting scientific research in which members of the public participate in the scientific process. The focus of projects ranges widely, from astronomy, to health, to natural resources, to the environment. Citizen science advances scientific knowledge, ensures safe and resilient communities, and prepares our future science and technology workforce. A vibrant citizen science effort in North Carolina will help position the state to take advantage of a growing science and technology economy – one that brought more than 400 million dollars in equity investment into the state so far in 2016 as per the Council for Entrepreneurial Development.

Like science in general, citizen science advances when all members of society are able to contribute fully, and it works best when it values inclusivity and diversity and embraces the notion that all people – regardless of race, creed, or gender identity – can contribute to and benefit from science. Also like science in general, citizen science upholds these ideals as fundamental. Unfortunately, during a critical phase of our conference planning North Carolina passed legislation incompatible with these ideals, forcing us to reconsider Raleigh as a host city. Our final decision to leave Raleigh was disappointing to many, including our local host committee, partners, and many of our members who live and work in North Carolina and the Appalachian region and who valued the opportunity to highlight their important efforts.

As a leader in the state, you know that some of the best opportunities for economic growth are associated with science and technology. You can ensure that your state remains a desirable place for such innovation – including citizen science – by creating a welcoming and safe environment for everyone. We look forward to coming to Raleigh when North Carolina once again embraces ideals that have made American science outstanding in the world.

Sincerely,

The Citizen Science Association Board of Directors