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**Statement of Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.)
Hearing on Scientific Research at the Smithsonian - More than a Museum**

Chairman Bucshon: Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. In addition, the Smithsonian Institution houses 137 million objects, artworks, and specimens. The Institution has been busy digitizing its records, with 8.45 million records currently available online. In 2013, 31 million people visited Smithsonian museums and there were over 102 million visits to its website.

However, the Smithsonian Institution is more than a museum; it is home to nine research centers and numerous research programs, which range from astronomy to marine biodiversity and ecosystems of Florida to understanding tropical biodiversity. Today's hearing will focus on the world-class scientific research activities at the Smithsonian Institution.

In 2013, the Smithsonian's Submillimeter Array peered through the galaxy to provide the first clear view of W49A, a stellar nursery where star formation takes place, revealing a giant star cluster in the making. In another finding, a team of Smithsonian scientists further explored overlooked preserved museum specimens. The journey that started at a museum in Chicago led to the cloud forests of Ecuador in the Northern Andes and back to genetics labs in Washington, D.C., ending in the discovery of the olinguito – the first carnivorous mammal species discovered in the Americas in 35 years.

This discovery was one of the top science stories of 2013. In other research, the first wild horse species was born from artificial insemination at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. These are a few highlights among the research being done that we will hear about during today's hearing.

In its 168 year history, the Smithsonian has inspired millions of Americans, and also given us the opportunity to learn about our nation's history, culture and values. At the same time, it is important that the Smithsonian focus its resources on research that will maintain its world-class status and will allow its researchers to solve problems that are vital to the national interest.

Our witnesses today will display some of the important research activities that are on-going at the Smithsonian, and will provide a vision for future activities. I look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses and having a productive discussion.

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