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Biodiversity Collections Network
c/o American Institute of Biological Sciences
1201 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN),

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Society of Herbarium Curators (SHC), I am writing to enthusiastically endorse the recently released *Extending U.S. Biodiversity Collections to Promote Research and Education* report.

As the primary repository of plant biodiversity specimens, the world's herbaria contain hundreds of millions of specimens documenting plant diversity. The Society of Herbarium Curators is an international organization that unites the world's herbarium professionals in discussion, training, action, and support for the benefit of herbaria, science, and society. The goals and recommendations in the BCoN report are complementary to the mission of SHC. The recommendation to build a network of extended specimen data for research and education has the potential to play a crucial role in leveraging our biodiversity specimens and associated knowledge and expertise to better document and understand biodiversity. The results of this effort would provide a resource that fosters cross-cutting science that helps address global environmental and societal challenges.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sweeney
President, Society of Herbarium Curators