

ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

November 25, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

We write to respectfully request that you move promptly to confirm Franklin M. (Lynn) Orr, Jr. and Marc Kastner who were nominated on November 14, 2013 to serve as Under Secretary for Science and Energy and Director of the Office of Science at the Department of Energy. Dr. Orr and Dr. Kastner had their confirmation hearings for these two posts over one year ago, and are two of about a dozen nominees for positions at the Department of Energy who still await confirmation. It is now time that the Senate move to confirm these two individuals to positions that are vital to the direction and oversight of the important scientific and energy research supported by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Orr is one of our nation's leaders in energy and science, with a distinguished record in innovation, research, education and administration. At Stanford University, he served as the Director of the Precourt Energy Institute and the Dean of Earth Sciences after chairing the Department of Petroleum Engineering. Dr. Kastner is a leading U.S. physicist and most recently served at the Dean of the School of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) after heading its Department of Physics.

If confirmed, both of these individuals will help to steward an important component of our federal research enterprise – the Department of Energy and its national laboratories. We believe that the scientific and energy research, unique world-class user facilities, and teams of skilled scientists and engineers funded by the Department of Energy at universities and national laboratories are critical to long-term economic growth and job creation. Economic experts have asserted as much, crediting past investments in science and technology for up to half the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 50 years following the end of World War II. The confirmation of Dr. Orr and Dr. Kastner will provide leadership in our nation's efforts to advance scientific discovery and to develop breakthrough technologies and other innovations that will enhance America's energy security and economic competitiveness.

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) is a broad based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers and mathematicians in universities, industry and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and in particular, the DOE Office of Science.

For these reasons, we urge the Senate to move forward on these nominations before the end of the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

American Astronomical Society	Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
American Chemical Society	Krell Institute
American Geophysical Union	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
American Geosciences Institute	Materials Research Society
American Institute of Physics	Michigan State University
American Mathematical Society	Northern Illinois University
American Physical Society	Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
American Society for Engineering Education	Pace University
American Society of Agronomy	Pennsylvania State University
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Princeton University
American Society for Microbiology	Purdue University
American Society of Plant Biologists	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Arizona State University	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Association of American Universities	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	Soil Science Society of America
Battelle	South Dakota School of Mines
Binghamton University	Southeastern Universities Research Association
Boston University	Stanford University
Case Western Reserve University	SUNY at Binghamton
Clemson University	Tech-X
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation (CASC)	The Ohio State University
Columbia University	University of California System
Computing Research Association	University of Colorado Boulder
Cornell University	University of Delaware
Cray Inc.	University of Maryland, College Park
Crop Science Society of America	University of Michigan
Duke University	University of Southern California
Florida State University	University of Texas at Austin
Fusion Power Associates	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Georgia Institute of Technology	Vanderbilt University
IBM	Washington University in St. Louis
Iowa State University	West Virginia University

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
The Honorable Ernie Moniz, Secretary of Energy
The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council
Katherine N. Beirne Fallon, Assistant to the President and Director of Legislative Affairs