

# ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

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November 25, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-146A Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Shelby, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The undersigned organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition representing universities, business and the scientific community, write to urge that you move quickly to complete the FY 2015 appropriation process. As you do, we urge that you assign a high priority to funding for critical scientific research supported by the Department of Energy's Office of Science and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E).

Federal investment in research – fundamental and high-risk research that won't otherwise be supported by industry – is the proper role of government. This is exactly the type of research that is conducted by DOE's Office of Science and ARPA-E. Providing sustained and predictable funding for these two DOE agencies is vitally important to securing our future national energy security, closing our nation's innovation deficit and maintaining U.S. leadership in key fields of scientific and engineering research.

The DOE Office of Science is the nation's primary supporter of basic physical sciences research (including high energy and nuclear physics), providing over 47% of total federal support in this area and is also critical to ensuring U.S. leadership in other scientific fields including the biological sciences, advanced materials, computing and engineering. The DOE Office of Science also supports the operation of the largest collection of major scientific user facilities in the world. These user facilities are the backbone of experimental and computational research in the U.S. and are relied upon by over 25,000 scientists from universities, companies, and Federal agencies to conduct their scientific and engineering research. The DOE Office of Science thus plays a critical role in supporting the nation's scientific and engineering workforce and in advancing the fundamental knowledge underpinning major energy and other technology-related breakthroughs.

*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.*

Modeled after the highly successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), ARPA-E supports high-risk, high-reward research that private industry will not support, but which has the potential to drastically alter how we generate, store, and use energy. ARPA-E focuses on transformational energy technologies that can be meaningfully advanced with a small investment over a defined period of time. Since 2009, ARPA-E has funded more than 350 projects across 38 states. Of these projects, seventeen projects alone have attracted over \$450 million in private sector capital after ARPA-E's initial investment of approximately \$70 million.

While we understand the many complexities involved in reaching final agreement on an FY 2015 appropriations package, we would strongly urge you to move swiftly to complete the process. At the very time that our economic competitors in China, India, South Korea, the European Union, and elsewhere are copying our approach to innovation and increasing their rate of investment in basic and energy-related research, now is not the time to further reduce or further delay providing sustained funding for critical U.S. energy research programs. Short term Continuing Resolutions and further delays in completing the Congressional appropriations process will only harm the U.S. scientific enterprise and give the advantage to our economic competitors. We therefore urge you to act now to complete the FY 2015 appropriations process and to ensure stable and sustained FY 2015 funding levels for both the DOE Office of Science and ARPA-E.

Sincerely,

American Astronomical Society  
 American Chemical Society  
 American Geophysical Union  
 American Geosciences Institute  
 American Institute of Physics  
 American Mathematical Society  
 American Physical Society  
 American Society for Engineering  
 Education  
 American Society of Agronomy  
 American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
 American Society for Microbiology  
 American Society of Plant Biologists  
 Arizona State University  
 Association of American Universities  
 Association of Public and Land-grant  
 Universities  
 Battelle  
 Binghamton University  
 Boston University  
 Case Western Reserve University  
 Clemson University  
 Coalition for Academic Scientific  
 Computation (CASC)  
 Columbia University  
 Computing Research Association  
 Cornell University  
 Cray Inc.  
 Crop Science Society of America

Duke University  
 Federation of American Societies for  
 Experimental Biology  
 Florida State University  
 Fusion Power Associates  
 Geological Society of America  
 Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Harvard University  
 IBM  
 Iowa State University  
 Jefferson Science Associates, LLC  
 Krell Institute  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Materials Research Society  
 Michigan State University  
 Northern Illinois University  
 Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)  
 Pace University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Purdue University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
 Society for Industrial and Applied  
 Mathematics  
 Soil Science Society of America  
 South Dakota School of Mines  
 Southeastern Universities Research  
 Association

Stanford University  
SUNY at Binghamton  
Tech-X  
The Ohio State University  
University of California System  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Delaware  
University of Maryland, College Park

University of Michigan  
University of North Texas  
University of Southern California  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Vanderbilt University  
Washington University in St. Louis  
West Virginia University

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman, Senate Energy and Water Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Water Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
The Honorable Michael Simpson, Chairman, House Energy and Water Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member, House Energy and Water Appropriations  
Subcommittee