

ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

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