



## ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

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March 30, 2018

Dear Chairmen Cochran, Frelinghuysen, Alexander and Simpson, and Ranking Members Leahy, Lowey, Feinstein, and Kaptur,

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) thanks you for prioritizing and providing a historic funding increase for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science in the final fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus bill (H.R. 1625). A 16 percent increase over the FY 2017 enacted level demonstrates a clear commitment to enhancing our energy security and national security. This funding increase also sends a signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is a global leader in science and technology and is poised to retain and attract the best minds – from across the country and the rest of the world – to address scientific and technological grand challenges.

More specifically, the \$6.26 billion will restore funding for vital early stage research at universities and the network of 17 DOE National Laboratories advancing high-risk, high-reward research areas – such as machine learning, quantum information science, materials by design, and nuclear science – that can lead to paradigm-shifting innovations in energy technologies that spawn the creation of new industries. This funding will also increase operations of 26 Office of Science-supported, world-class, scientific user facilities that provide access to more than 32,000 researchers from academia, industry and federal agencies. The additional funding for the construction and upgrades of major science facilities will go a long way toward staying ahead of international investments in science infrastructure. Equally important, undergraduate and graduate students who are the next generation of American scientific and engineering talent will be encouraged to pursue their careers in the physical sciences and help grow the nation's scientific knowledge base at a time of increasing international competition.

Thank you again for your leadership and support for the Office of Science. ESC looks forward to working with you in FY 2019 to maintain robust funding for the Office of Science and continue steady progress in groundbreaking research and construction of world-leading science facilities.

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*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.*

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