



**ENERGY SCIENCES
COALITION**

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader

S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources U.S. Senate
Committee

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Chairman Manchin,

On behalf of the over 100 member organizations in the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC), we strongly urge you to confirm Dr. Asmeret Berhe as Director of the Office of Science as expeditiously as possible. This includes reporting her favorably out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and scheduling a Senate vote.

Strong leadership for the DOE Office of Science and broader DOE science and technology investments is essential. Both Congress and the Biden Administration are proposing bold new investments in climate, clean energy, emerging technologies, research infrastructure, and a diverse workforce with the DOE Office of Science playing a prominent role, such as the DOE Science for the Future Act, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, the Build Back Better reconciliation bill, and the fiscal year 2022 President's budget request. DOE leadership is needed to prioritize and help manage new investments to stay ahead of international competition, maintain U.S. competitiveness, maintain a highly skilled science and technology workforce, and create American jobs of the future in key energy sectors as well as new technology areas such as high performance computing, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and quantum information science.

Specifically, the new Director for the Office of Science will likely be responsible for managing billions of dollars to build and upgrade research infrastructure at national laboratories and university research facilities. This would include the construction of world-class user facilities and instruments that currently support 40,000 researchers from academia, industry, and federal agencies as well as upgrades to and replacement of increasingly obsolete and unreliable support infrastructure to address growing deferred maintenance issues at DOE national laboratories. In addition to research infrastructure, the new Director will manage a growing research portfolio to advance scientific breakthroughs and energy technology innovations to help decarbonize the U.S. economy and mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Equally important, they will be responsible for expanding research initiatives to attract the best and brightest scientists and engineers to critical fields of science, including addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The DOE Office of Science also remains the largest federal funder of the physical

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.

sciences and plays a prominent role in advancing fundamental research that plants the seeds for future innovation and discovery.

Given the important role the Director for the Office of Science plays in advancing the country's science, energy, environment, and national security missions, we strongly urge you to advance her nomination.

Sincerely,

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