



December 14, 2017

Statement Supporting the Completion of Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science

The member organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) urge Congress to complete the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations process and reach a bipartisan agreement that includes raising the budget cap for non-defense discretionary spending. While we thank the members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for their work thus far – including a rejection of the cuts to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science recommended in the President’s FY 2018 budget proposal – completing the appropriations process is critical to the U.S. research enterprise.

During its negotiations for a final FY 2018 Appropriations agreement, ESC encourages Congress to continue to make robust and sustained funding for the DOE Office of Science a priority and agree to no less than the Senate’s recommended FY 2018 funding level of \$5.5 billion for the Office. If additional non-defense discretionary funding is available, ESC encourages Congress to fund the Office of Science at \$5.7 billion, which would be consistent with ESC’s recommendation from March 2017. This level of funding would continue support for: research essential to our economic growth, energy security and national security; training the next generation of American scientific and engineering talent; the construction of world-class scientific tools and facilities; and the network of DOE national laboratories.

The U.S. can no longer claim to be the undisputed global leader in science, technology and innovation. The Global Innovation Index 2017 now ranks the United States 4th among world innovators, and the U.S. has fallen to 10th in national research investment as a percentage of GDP. Another Continuing Resolution would only continue this downward trajectory, provide inadequate funding levels, and create deep uncertainty for the researchers, students, universities and private companies that utilize DOE Office of Science programs and facilities.

Reversing the decline in American leadership in science and technology – essential to ensuring our energy security and national security – cannot be achieved without increasing support for scientific research and research facilities. Even in times of constrained budgets, the United States must make the pro-growth investment in scientific research that will create new industries, support new jobs, strengthen our economy and enhance our national security.

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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.

Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies
American Association for the Advancement of
Science
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 Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology
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
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Biophysical Society
Boston University
Case Western Reserve University
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Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
(CASC)
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Columbia University
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Cray Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
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