



**ENERGY SCIENCES
COALITION**

September 21, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Chairman Manchin,

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) urges you to include at least \$15.5 billion for Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory infrastructure and associated research and development activities in a final reconciliation package. This level of funding is consistent with the allocation in the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee reconciliation bill in the Build Back Better package. This modest level of funding would go a long way toward building world-class science facilities, addressing maintenance backlogs, securing global leadership in key technology areas, and enabling the innovation we need to realize our climate and economic goals.

In particular, an investment in DOE Office of Science, shovel-ready research infrastructure at national laboratories and university research facilities would immediately create construction jobs and stimulate the economy, as well as enable future scientific breakthroughs and discoveries vital to continuing American economic prosperity and national security. This includes the construction of world-class user facilities and instruments that currently support 36,000 researchers from academia, industry and federal agencies; upgrades to and replacement of increasingly obsolete and unreliable support infrastructure to address growing deferred maintenance issues at DOE national laboratories; and expanded research initiatives to attract the best and brightest scientists and engineers to critical fields of science.

The U.S. faces increasing competition from our counterparts in Europe and Asia, as they invest heavily to build their own state-of-the-art facilities to attract the best minds and lead the world in science and technology. An additional infrastructure investment would accelerate the construction of world-class facilities and scientific instruments to stay ahead of this competition. It would also ensure that the U.S. remains the most attractive country in the world for scientists and researchers to come in order to advance scientific discovery and innovation. With a strong record of completing major construction projects on time and on budget, the Office of Science has been an excellent steward of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your continued leadership in strengthening U.S. science, technology and innovation and your support for DOE.

Sincerely,

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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.