

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2020

Senator Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2021 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for robust and sustained funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and request at least \$7.5 billion be provided in funding.

For more than forty years, research performed by the DOE Office of Science has been the foundation for scientific and technical progress as the nation's largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences. The DOE Office of Science sets ambitious goals to find innovative solutions to overcome many of our greatest challenges, from understanding the universe and ending our dependence on foreign energy, to curing diseases and addressing threats to our national security. Funding for its programs must be a priority.

We as a nation depend on the DOE Office of Science to maintain a first-rate workforce of research scientists, engineers, and support personnel to mobilize and tackle pressing problems. Currently, research at labs supported by the DOE Office of Science are helping to address the threat of COVID-19 and are working to find a potential drug target. Funding for DOE Office of Science has been integral to the development of several innovative technologies like MRI machines and PET scans, 3-D models of pathogens for vaccine development, electric vehicle battery technology, new composite materials for military hardware and motor vehicles, and better sensors and detectors for biological, chemical, and radioactive materials. Many of these technologies, such as DNA sequencing technologies or more aerodynamic and fuel efficient long-haul trucks, spur economic development and growth. Additionally, the DOE Office of Science's long-standing leadership in high performance computing has enabled countless scientific discoveries.

The DOE Office of Science is the nation's primary source of research in the physical sciences, and has built and maintains a unique collection of 27 large-scale, cutting-edge, one-of-a-kind user facilities relied upon by more than 36,000 researchers annually. Nearly half of these users are university faculty and students from all 50 states. Other users are from U.S. industry and other key federal science agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the

National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense (DoD). These critical facilities are essential to thousands of users who would be forced to move their job-creating research activities overseas, or terminate their research altogether, if these facilities were not supported. With a workforce of more than 22,000 research scientists, engineers, and support personnel who work as teams on long-term solutions to some of the nation's greatest challenges and who are ready to tackle pressing problems at a moment's notice, the DOE Office of Science plays a unique and critical role in the education of the next generation of American scientific talent.

Moving forward, the DOE Office of Science is poised to continue to be one of the leading federal agencies in advancing critical industries of the future. This includes leadership on quantum information science, artificial intelligence, next-generation high performance computing, advanced communications networks, and biotechnology. But in order for the U.S. to maintain world leadership in these critical areas, especially amidst rapid investments in science and technology in other countries, we must continue to sustain funding for the DOE Office of Science.

Reductions in funding for DOE scientific research would hurt the nation's capacity to innovate, while robust funding will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, enhance our competitive edge in the global economy, ensure our national security, and create good American jobs well into the future. For these reasons, we urge you to make strong and sustained funding for the DOE Office of Science one of your highest priorities in fiscal year 2021.

Sincerely,



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



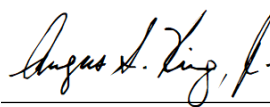
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Tina Smith  
United States Senator



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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator




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Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

/s/ Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

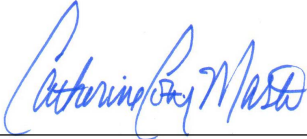


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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

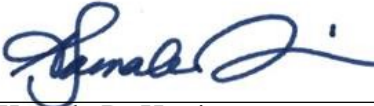
/s/ Jack Reed  
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator




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Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator




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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



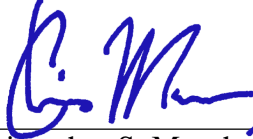
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



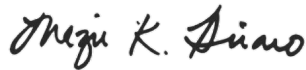
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



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Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator