## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur Chairwoman Energy and Water Development House Appropriations Committee H-305, U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Mike Simpson Ranking Member Energy and Water Development House Appropriations Committee 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

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.

We recognize that during these challenging economic times we must set priorities and make smart, strategic decisions about federal funding. We believe that scientific research is the foundation for the innovative solutions that will enable us to overcome many of our greatest challenges, from economic stagnation and dependence on foreign energy to curing diseases and addressing threats to our national security. That is why we believe funding for the DOE Office of Science must be a priority in fiscal year 2021.

As the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences, the DOE Office of Science 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. Others come from U.S. industry and many are conducting research for other key federal science agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the Department of Defense (DOD). Without these critical facilities, thousands of users would be forced to move their job-creating research activities overseas or terminate their research altogether.

The DOE Office of Science also supports a first-rate 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. Moreover, it plays a unique and critical role in the education of the next generation of American scientific talent, including thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at hundreds of U.S. institutions who depend upon DOE Office of Science support and facilities for their research and training.

This collection of research, facilities, and scientific talent has enabled the DOE Office of Science to contribute greatly to our quality of life, our health, and our security. The DOE Office of Science has been integral to the development of several innovative technologies, including MRI machines and PET scans, new composite materials for military hardware and motor vehicles,

medical and industrial isotopes, drop-in biofuel technologies, DNA sequencing technologies, more aerodynamic and fuel efficient long-haul trucks, electric vehicle battery technology, an artificial retina, newer and safer nuclear reactor designs, 3-D models of pathogens for vaccine development, tools to manufacture nanomaterials, and better sensors and detectors for biological, chemical, and radioactive materials. The DOE Office of Science's long-standing leadership in high performance computing has enabled countless scientific discoveries.

Looking ahead, the Office of Science is one of the lead federal agencies in advancing critical industries of the future, including quantum information science, artificial intelligence, next-generation high performance computing, advanced communications networks, and biotechnology. It is clear that continued innovation and the jobs of the future depend on the Office of Science's ability to maintain U.S. leadership in these critical science and technology areas. As other countries continue to make significant investments in science and technology and specifically in the physical sciences, it is more important than ever to sustain funding for the Office of Science.

By prioritizing funding for DOE scientific research—thereby supporting both the human and physical capital—Congress will preserve our capacity to innovate, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, enhance our competitive edge in the global economy, improve our quality of life, 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,

Bill Foster

Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján

Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin

Member of Congress

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John P. Sarbanes Member of Congress

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