



October 24, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairwoman Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson:

As president of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), I write to thank you for your ongoing work on the FY2020 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill and urge support for APLU's priorities as you reconcile differences between House and Senate measures.

I further note how crucial it is for Congress to complete the appropriations process. Additional continuing resolutions will fail to capitalize on Congress' meaningful work in addressing budget caps while ceding the opportunity to make important increases to key investments in scientific research. While understanding that the House marked up their bills under a higher total funding level than what was passed through the bipartisan budget agreement in July, APLU respectfully urges that the strongest possible funding levels for important research programs prevail in the final bill.

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. Annually, APLU's 197 U.S. member campuses enroll 4.1 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1.1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$42.4 billion in university-based research.

APLU's members conduct a majority of university-based research funded by the Department of Energy. I strongly commend you for crafting legislation that rejects the administration's proposed termination of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) and deep cuts to the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

APLU appreciates the robust funding included in both the House and Senate bills for the DOE Office of Science and DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E). These forward-looking funding levels demonstrate your great commitment to advancing U.S. energy security, building our future economy, and fostering the next generation of scientists.

As you begin to reconcile differences in legislation, APLU urges you to include in the final bill **\$7.215 billion for the Office of Science**, which the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved. Understanding there is uncertainty over final funding allocations, APLU recommends no less than \$7 billion for the DOE Office of Science, consistent with our funding request to Congress in March. With these increased funds, DOE could advance new strategic investments in quantum science, genomics and engineering biology, microelectronics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and prepare the next generation of American scientific and engineering talent through competitively awarded grants.

Additionally, I urge you to include the Senate Committee's level of **\$428 million for ARPA-E**. ARPA-E advances high-potential, high-impact energy technologies. These technologies can radically transform how we generate, store, and use energy. Thanks to federal investment in ARPA-E, 76 companies have been formed, 2,489 peer-reviewed journal articles have been published to advance knowledge, and 346 patents have been issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Thank you for your consideration of APLU's recommendations as you work to reconcile differences and advance a final FY2020 appropriations measure.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson
President, APLU

cc:

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby
House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Kay Granger
Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies