

ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

November 25, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

We write to respectfully request that you move promptly to confirm Franklin M. (Lynn) Orr, Jr. and Marc Kastner who were nominated on November 14, 2013 to serve as Under Secretary for Science and Energy and Director of the Office of Science at the Department of Energy. Dr. Orr and Dr. Kastner had their confirmation hearings for these two posts over one year ago, and are two of about a dozen nominees for positions at the Department of Energy who still await confirmation. It is now time that the Senate move to confirm these two individuals to positions that are vital to the direction and oversight of the important scientific and energy research supported by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Orr is one of our nation's leaders in energy and science, with a distinguished record in innovation, research, education and administration. At Stanford University, he served as the Director of the Precourt Energy Institute and the Dean of Earth Sciences after chairing the Department of Petroleum Engineering. Dr. Kastner is a leading U.S. physicist and most recently served at the Dean of the School of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) after heading its Department of Physics.

If confirmed, both of these individuals will help to steward an important component of our federal research enterprise – the Department of Energy and its national laboratories. We believe that the scientific and energy research, unique world-class user facilities, and teams of skilled scientists and engineers funded by the Department of Energy at universities and national laboratories are critical to long-term economic growth and job creation. Economic experts have asserted as much, crediting past investments in science and technology for up to half the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 50 years following the end of World War II. The confirmation of Dr. Orr and Dr. Kastner will provide leadership in our nation's efforts to advance scientific discovery and to develop breakthrough technologies and other innovations that will enhance America's energy security and economic competitiveness.

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.

For these reasons, we urge the Senate to move forward on these nominations before the end of the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

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 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
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Binghamton University
Boston University
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation (CASC)
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Cornell University
Cray Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Florida State University
Fusion Power Associates
Georgia Institute of Technology
IBM
Iowa State University

Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Krell Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
Northern Illinois University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota School of Mines
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Stanford University
SUNY at Binghamton
Tech-X
The Ohio State University
University of California System
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
The Honorable Ernie Moniz, Secretary of Energy
The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director of the National Economic Council
Katherine N. Beirne Fallon, Assistant to the President and Director of Legislative Affairs