

FY 2016 ESC FUNDING STATEMENT

The federal investment in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science is critical to keeping America competitive, enhancing energy security, and building the economy of the future through support for science and technology.

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) urges Congress to make funding for the DOE Office of Science a priority by providing \$5.34 billion in FY16 (the President's request). This is a 5% increase over FY15, and will enable the Office of Science to advance its mission by supporting core scientific research at universities and national laboratories and maximizing the operation of unique scientific facilities used by tens of thousands of scientists nationwide. In particular, we urge Congress to restore \$50 million in proposed cuts to the Fusion Energy Sciences program.

Leading Sponsor of Research in Important Fields: The DOE Office of Science is our Nation's primary supporter of basic physical sciences research, providing about 47% of total federal support. The Office of Science also plays a critical role in U.S. leadership in other fields including the biological sciences, advanced materials, computing and engineering. In subfields such as high energy and nuclear physics, heavy-element chemistry, plasma physics, magnetic fusion, and catalysis, DOE is the primary government sponsor.

Prepares the Next Generation of American Scientific Talent: The DOE Office of Science supports a diverse portfolio of research at colleges and universities nationwide. It sponsors half of all university physics research and more than 25,000 Ph.D. scientists, engineers, graduate students, undergraduates and technical personnel at over 300 institutions through competitively awarded grants. DOE-funded research and education programs strengthen our Nation's scientific knowledge base and prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Stewards World-Leading Scientific Facilities: The DOE Office of Science also supports the operation of the largest collection of major scientific user facilities in the world. Annually, over 31,000 researchers from U.S. industry, universities and federal agencies rely on these facilities to support their scientific and engineering needs. Located at national laboratories and universities around the country, these facilities include particle accelerators, experimental reactors, high-precision instruments, synchrotrons and light sources, leadership-class supercomputers, and high resolution mass spectrometers. Nearly half of the DOE facility users are university and federal investigators who research questions of fundamental science. Industry uses these facilities to do the underlying research required to develop new pharmaceuticals, advanced materials for use in manufacturing, telecommunications equipment, and new industrial products that drive the economy. If not for DOE, U.S. researchers would have no access to these vital scientific tools.

Now is not the time to reduce federal funding for the basic research and scientific facilities that are so critical to our economic growth and energy security. China, India, South Korea, the European Union, and others are copying our approach to innovation and increasing their R&D investments. Strong and sustained funding for DOE science programs is needed to maintain scientific leadership, build a world-class technical workforce, improve the nation's energy security, and ensure continued U.S. competitiveness in the global economy.

We request Congress to provide \$5.34 billion to the DOE Office of Science in FY16.