March 5, 2019

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the more than 90 organizations representing scientists, engineers, and mathematicians in universities, industry, and national laboratories who support and advance the scientific research programs of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, we ask that you swiftly confirm Dr. Christopher Fall for the position of Director of the Office of Science.

Dr. Fall’s extensive experience as Chief Scientist and Director of Research at the Department of Defense’s Office of Naval Research, Assistant Director for Defense Programs at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and most recently as Principal Deputy Director of DOE’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (APRA-E), make him well qualified for the position.

Equally important, the Office of Science is the largest government sponsor for basic research in the physical sciences and is leading major science and technology initiatives vital to American prosperity and security, and yet the Office has not had a Senate-confirmed Director in more than two years. The Office of Science should be commended for its stewardship of major research efforts and the construction of world-leading facilities, but a Senate-confirmed Director is needed more than ever to set clear research and science infrastructure priorities at a time when the U.S. is facing major international competition from countries around the world and U.S. economic competitiveness and national security increasingly rely on innovations in science and technology.

The Office of Science is one of the lead federal science agencies advancing innovative high-risk, high reward research, including quantum science and technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning, genomics, microelectronics, and novel materials for energy and national security applications. This diverse portfolio of research supports approximately 22,000 Ph.D. scientists, engineers, graduate students, undergraduates and technical personnel at more than 300 institutions across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Office of Science also supports the construction and operation of the largest collection of major scientific user facilities in the world. Located at national laboratories and universities across the country, these 27 open-access facilities include particle accelerators, experimental reactors, X-ray synchrotron and free-electron laser light sources, leadership-class supercomputers and other high-precision instruments. Annually, more than 36,000 researchers from academia, industry and federal agencies use these facilities to support their pursuits in science and engineering.

The confirmation of Dr. Chris Fall cannot come at a more important time as the U.S. makes major investments in new areas of research and builds the next-generation of world-class science facilities.

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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.
ESC Membership

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Crystallographic Association
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Agronomy
Acoustical Society of America (ASA)
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Vacuum Society
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Binghamton University
Biophysical Society
Boston University
Case Western Reserve University
City College of CUNY
Clemson University
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation (CASC)
Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Council of Scientific Society Presidents
Cornell University
Cray Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
The Ecological Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Florida State University
Fusion Power Associates
General Atomics
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Health Physics Society
IBM
IEEE-USA
Iowa State University
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Krell Institute
Lehigh University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
New Mexico State University
New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
OSA—The Optical Society
Pace 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
Stony Brook University
Tech-X Corporation
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Missouri System
University of North Texas
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Yale University