



Task Force on American Innovation

Securing the future through research in the physical sciences and engineering

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The Task Force on American Innovation—a coalition of businesses, scientific societies, and university organizations—urges you to fully fund Department of Energy basic research and innovation programs when you consider the FY18 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill this week.

DOE is the leading source of federal investment in basic physical science research, providing nearly 47 percent of total funding. In fields such as high energy and nuclear physics, nuclear medicine, heavy element chemistry, plasma physics, and magnetic fusion, DOE is the primary government sponsor. In addition to the physical sciences, DOE plays a key role in ensuring continued U.S. leadership in other fields of scientific research including the biological sciences, computing, and engineering.

We note that the authorizing legislation being considered by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017, calls for increased investment in several programs, including: the DOE Office of Science, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, and the Energy Innovation Hubs. These programs generate discoveries, ideas, and technologies to the benefit the American people. We urge you to fund the DOE science programs portfolio at the levels called for in S. 1460.

Now is the time for strong leadership from the Senate to ensure robust and sustainable funding for a key element of America's innovation ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Task Force on American Innovation