

ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

April 26, 2010

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
House Science and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ralph Hall
Ranking Member
House Science and Technology Committee
394 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon and Ranking Member Hall:

As you work to reauthorize the America COMPETES Act, the undersigned organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition write to express support for quick passage of the bill. In particular, we strongly support the five-year funding levels authorized as a part of H.R. 4905, the Department of Energy Office of Science Authorization Act of 2010, introduced by Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) and Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) on March 22, 2010, which your committee plans to incorporate into the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act.

To remain globally competitive, the United States must invest in the research and development that underpins innovation. If history is any guide, we know the benefits of such an investment. According to economic experts, science-driven technology is responsible for over 50 percent of the growth of the U.S. economy during the last half century. Our nation cannot continue to benefit from this kind of economic growth and remain competitive if we do not invest in the kind of basic research and scientific facilities supported by the DOE Office of Science at American universities and national laboratories.

As the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences, the DOE Office of Science supports over 40 percent of total federal funding for this research – more than any other federal agency. It funds the operation of unique, cutting-edge facilities that are utilized by researchers from U.S. industry, as well as by thousands of university faculty and students. The DOE Office of Science also supports research critical to maintaining U.S. leadership in key scientific fields including biotechnology, materials science, nanotechnology, and supercomputing, all of which are essential to the development of advanced energy technologies that can help free the nation from its dependence on foreign sources of energy. In short, the DOE Office of Science is essential to our nation's future competitiveness and a critical component of the federal scientific and innovation enterprise.

We are aware of the current and future fiscal challenges facing the Administration and Congress. Weighing the economic competitiveness and national security value of investments in Office of Science programs and facilities, however, we believe that a strong, five-year authorization for the Office of Science – consistent with the doubling path established by the bipartisan 2007 America COMPETES Act – should be a priority for Congress.

For these reasons, we commend the Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment for marking up H.R. 4905 on March 25, 2010. We further urge the full Science and Technology Committee to act promptly to pass this measure as a part of the broader America COMPETES reauthorization, and to maintain both the funding levels and five-year authorization period

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.

contained in H.R. 4905. These investments are vital to ensuring our energy security and national competitiveness, meeting our environmental challenges, and producing innovative technological breakthroughs and new jobs that will fuel our economy well into the future.

Sincerely,

AGI	The Ohio State University
American Chemical Society	Princeton University
American Institute of Physics	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
American Mathematical Society	Stanford University
American Society for Engineering Education	Stony Brook University
American Society for Microbiology	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
APS	
Arizona State University	The University of California System
The Association of American Universities	University of California, Berkeley
The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	University of California, Davis
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America	University of California, Irvine
Battelle	University of California, Los Angeles
Biophysical Society	University of California, Merced
California Institute of Technology	University of California, Riverside
Cornell University	University of California, San Diego
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders	University of California, San Francisco
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors	University of California, Santa Barbara
Duke University	University of California, Santa Cruz
Florida State University	University of Chicago
Indiana University	University of Maryland
Materials Research Society	University of Michigan
MIT	University of Pennsylvania
Michigan State University	University of Pittsburgh
National Council for Science and the Environment	University of Southern California
	University of Wisconsin-Madison
	Vanderbilt University
	Washington University in St. Louis

cc: The Honorable Brian Baird, Chairman,
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Robert Inglis, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Judy Biggert, Member,
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment
Members of the House Science and Technology Committee