



ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

November 1, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Chairman Manchin,

On behalf of the more than 100 organizations involved in the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC), we urge you to include at least \$10 billion for Department of Energy (DOE) laboratory infrastructure and associated research and development activities in a final reconciliation package, consistent with prior ESC recommendations.

ESC is very concerned about the lack of funding for DOE laboratory infrastructure in the proposed October 28 Build Back legislation. No funding to accelerate the construction of world-class science facilities would be a missed opportunity to reclaim U.S. leadership. DOE would also be the only major federal science agency that would receive no infrastructure funding, compared to agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, despite the fact that DOE is the leading federal agency to advance innovation in clean energy technologies and one of the leading science agencies to address climate and environmental challenges. The current proposal is also inconsistent with reconciliation instructions, which included DOE laboratory infrastructure, and the original House Science, Space, and Technology Committee reconciliation bill, which included \$12.3 billion for DOE laboratory infrastructure.

ESC is also concerned about the proposed cut to DOE Office of Science research and development funding. While ESC appreciates the inclusion of \$985 million for DOE Office of Science research and development in the new legislation, this \$1 billion less than originally proposed and limited to two specific areas of focus: fusion energy and low dose radiation. ESC urges you to provide at least \$2 billion in research and development funding for the DOE Office of Science to be able to fund ground-breaking research, including emerging technologies areas such as quantum information science and Artificial Intelligence.

As you know, an investment in DOE Office of Science, shovel-ready research infrastructure at national laboratories and university research facilities would immediately create construction jobs and stimulate the economy, as well as enable future scientific breakthroughs and discoveries vital to continuing American economic prosperity and national security. This includes the construction of world-class user facilities and instruments that currently support 36,000 researchers from academia, industry and federal agencies; upgrades to and replacement of increasingly obsolete and unreliable support infrastructure to address growing deferred maintenance issues at DOE national laboratories; and expanded research initiatives to attract the best and brightest scientists and engineers to critical fields of science.

The U.S. faces increasing competition from our counterparts in Europe and Asia, as they invest heavily to build their own state-of-the-art facilities to attract the best minds and lead the world in science and technology. An additional infrastructure investment would accelerate the construction of world-class facilities and scientific instruments to stay ahead of this competition. It would also ensure that the U.S. remains the most attractive country in the world for scientists and researchers to come in order to advance scientific discovery and innovation. With a *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.*

strong record of completing major construction projects on time and on budget, the Office of Science has been an excellent steward of taxpayer dollars.

The DOE Office of Science is also a critical part of the nation's innovation ecosystem and is the nation's largest funder of the physical sciences. Among its core mission objectives is conducting fundamental science to deliver solutions and technologies to address climate change, clean energy, and environmental sustainability. Scientific breakthroughs and energy technology innovation are still necessary to decarbonize the U.S. economy and mitigate the worst effects of climate change. Office of Science-supported fundamental research forms the foundation for future energy technologies. The current imperative—energy systems that meet our energy security, economic, and environmental challenges—requires continued, robust investments in all areas of fundamental research to advance all energy systems, including energy storage, negative emission technologies, advanced nuclear, hydrogen, fusion, renewables such as wind and solar, carbon capture, storage and utilization, and next-generation fuels.

Thank you for your continued leadership in strengthening U.S. science, technology and innovation and your support for DOE.

Sincerely,

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