

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2019

Senator Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we write in strong support of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and request at least \$7.0 billion be provided in funding.

For more than forty years, research performed by the DOE Office of Science has been the foundation for scientific and technical progress as the nation's largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences. The DOE Office of Science sets ambitious goals to find innovative solutions to overcome many of our greatest challenges, from understanding the universe and ending our dependence on foreign energy to curing diseases and addressing threats to our national security. Funding for its programs must be a priority.

We as a nation depend on the DOE Office of Science to maintain a first-rate workforce of research scientists, engineers, and support personnel to mobilize and tackle pressing problems. It has been integral to the development of several innovative technologies like MRI machines and PET scans, electric vehicle battery technology, new composite materials for military hardware and motor vehicles, and better sensors and detectors for biological, chemical, and radioactive materials. Many of these technologies, such as DNA sequencing technologies or more aerodynamic and fuel efficient long-haul trucks, spur economic development and growth.

Other agencies also depend on the Office of Science. This past year, the Fermi Gamma-ray Telescope celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year in operation, providing scientists with key discoveries in an effort to understand the universe. For example, the Fermi Gamma-ray Telescope detected light from two neutron stars merging, where for the first time in history, scientists were able to simultaneously measure light and gravitational waves—ripples of space and time—from the same source. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration relied on funding and expertise of the Office of Science to build the Fermi Telescope.

In addition, as part of its mission to deliver scientific discoveries and to transform our understanding of nature, the DOE Office of Science has built—and maintains—large-scale, one-of-a-kind user facilities relied upon by more than 33,000 researchers annually from the military, academia, international institutions, and private industry. Many are supported by other key Federal science agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense. Without these state-of-the-art facilities, thousands of users would be forced to move their job-creating research activities overseas or terminate their research altogether, and many federal agencies would not be able to fulfill their missions.

The DOE Office of Science supports research in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, at DOE laboratories and more than 300 universities and institutions of higher learning. Moreover, it cultivates the next generation of American scientific talent, including thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers across the nation who depend upon its support and facilities for their research and training.

Reductions in funding for DOE scientific research would hurt the nation's capacity to innovate, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, enhance our competitive edge in the global economy, and ensure our national security. For these reasons, we urge you to make strong and sustained funding for the DOE Office of Science one of your highest priorities.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



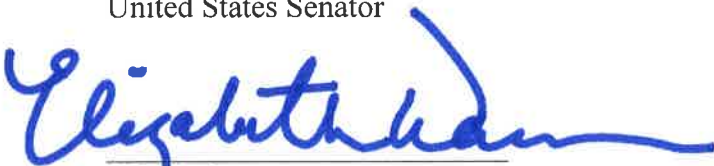
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



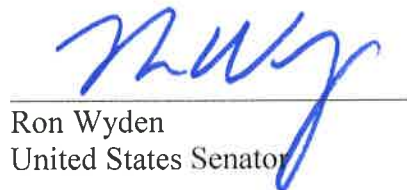
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United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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United States Senator

Angus King

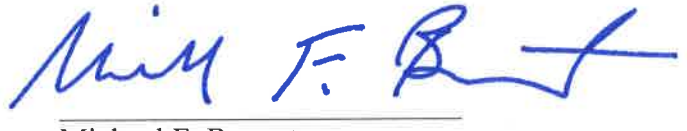
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



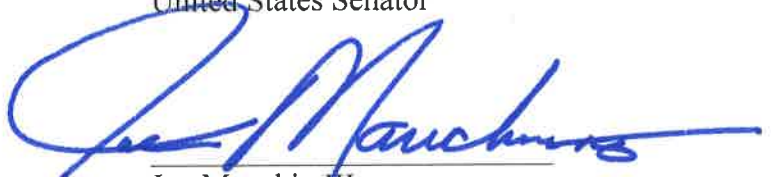
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



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Joe Manchin III  
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Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
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United States Senator