

# ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

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April XX, 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 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,

(LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS)

*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.*