

July 16, 2014

Re: The Department of Energy (DOE) Lab Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014

Dear Representatives Randy Hultgren and Derek Kilmer,

I am writing to express ITIF's strong support for the DOE Lab Modernization Act of 2014. The legislation, like its companion bill in the Senate, the America INNOVATES Act, would greatly improve the capacity of the DOE's 17 National Laboratories to move groundbreaking, federally-funded research into the marketplace as new products and services.

The Act provides nonpartisan solutions based, in part, on ITIF's June 2013 report *Turning the Page: Reimagining the National Labs in the 21st Century Innovation Economy*, coauthored with the Center for American Progress (CAP) and the Heritage Foundation. Specifically, the Act would allow the National Labs more flexibility to partner with start-ups and large firms to solve research challenges and transfer lab research to market. It would also modernize the management of the labs by vertically integrating the Department of Energy's science and energy programs. And it provides the labs additional tools to demonstrate the commercial applications of early stage research that may be too risky for the private sector to support.

America's National Labs are the envy of the world for their technical leadership and historic ability to produce game changing innovations—everything from the atomic bomb and advanced batteries to supercomputing and next-generation solar power. But over time the DOE lab system has failed to keep pace with the 21st century innovation economy. Today, the labs are often buried in bureaucracy and lack the tools to translate federal research into American innovations.

The DOE Lab Modernization Act is a significant step towards transforming the National Labs from their atomic roots into engines of innovation and economic growth. I urge Congress to pass these much needed reforms and jump-start the process of modernizing America's National Laboratory system.

Sincerely,



Matthew Stepp
Executive Director
ITIF's Center for Clean Energy Innovation

cc: Representatives Lamar Smith, Cynthia Lummis, Chaka Fattah, Alan Nunnelee, Eddie Bernice Johnson, and Eric Swalwell