Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Energy and Water Development
House Appropriations Committee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development
House Appropriations Committee
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for robust and sustained funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science. We ask that you maintain funding commensurate with increases in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement to support critical research, unique scientific facilities, and expert personnel.

We recognize the fragile state of the nation's economy, and support efforts to reduce the deficit and create jobs. But to do so, we must set priorities and make smart, strategic decisions about federal funding. We believe that scientific research is the foundation for the innovative solutions that will enable us to overcome many of our greatest challenges – from economic stagnation and dependence on foreign energy to curing diseases and addressing threats to our national security. That is why we believe funding for the DOE Office of Science must be a priority in fiscal year 2015.

As the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences, the DOE Office of Science has built - and maintains - a unique collection of large-scale, cutting-edge, one-of-a-kind user facilities relied upon by approximately 25,000 researchers annually. Nearly half of these users are university faculty and students. Others come from U.S. industry and many are conducting research for other key federal science agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Without these critical facilities, thousands of users would be forced to move their job-creating research activities overseas, or terminate their research altogether.

The DOE Office of Science also supports a first-rate workforce of research scientists, engineers, and support personnel who work as teams on long-term solutions to some of the nation's greatest challenges and who are ready to tackle pressing problems at a moment's notice. Moreover, it plays a unique and critical role in the education of the next generation of American scientific talent, including thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at hundreds of U.S.

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institutions who depend upon DOE Office of Science support and facilities for their research and training.

This collection of research, facilities and scientific talent has enabled the DOE Office of Science to contribute greatly to our quality of life, our health, and our security. The DOE Office of Science has been integral to the development of several innovative technologies, including MRI machines and PET scans, new composite materials for military hardware and motor vehicles, medical and industrial isotopes, drop-in biofuel technologies, DNA sequencing technologies, more aerodynamic and fuel efficient long-haul trucks, electric vehicle battery technology, an artificial retina, newer and safer nuclear reactor designs, 3-D models of pathogens for vaccine development, tools to manufacture nanomaterials, and better sensors and detectors for biological, chemical, and radioactive materials.

By prioritizing funding for DOE scientific research—thereby supporting both the human and physical capital—Congress will preserve our capacity to innovate, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, enhance our competitive edge in the global economy, improve our quality of life, ensure our national security, and create good American jobs well into the future. For these reasons, we urge you to make strong and sustained funding for the DOE Office of Science one of your highest priorities in fiscal year 2015.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Timothy J. Walz

James Langevin

Earl Blumenauer

Terri A. Sewell

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Jerry McNerney

Joseph P. Kennedy III

Adam Kinzinger

Allyson Y. Schwartz

Sander Levin

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Jim Costa

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John Tierney

Keith Ellison

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Jim Moran

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