



ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

Statement in Support of ARPA-E

April 16, 2018

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) strongly supports the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and thanks Congress for providing the agency \$353 million in the final fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus bill (H.R. 1625). This funding level demonstrates bipartisan recognition of the critical role ARPA-E plays in our science and technology ecosystem. ESC urges Congress to once again reject the Administration's request to eliminate ARPA-E and instead continue its momentum by providing the agency \$375 million in FY 2019 – representing 4 percent real growth from the FY 2018 enacted level.

Sustained funding for ARPA-E is essential to advancing the high-risk, high-reward energy technologies aimed at making U.S. energy companies more competitive across the global marketplace. ARPA-E's program portfolio focuses on R&D areas that have the potential to transform the energy landscape, such as electricity generation and delivery, the grid and storage, transportation, energy efficiency, and sustainable natural gas. Since its start in 2009, ARPA-E has demonstrated an impressive return on investment – attracting more than \$2.6 billion in private sector follow-on funding, creating more than 71 new companies, producing nearly 250 patents, and incorporating an ever-increasing number of technologies into products sold on the market. The most recent National Academy of Sciences' review of the agency concluded: "ARPA-E has the ability to make significant contributions to energy R&D that likely would not take place absent the agency's activities."

ARPA-E is an integral component of U.S. energy R&D, taking new discoveries and advances by the Department of Energy Office of Science, such as state-of-the-art materials or advanced computational techniques, and being the first to apply them to unexplored, potentially revolutionary energy technologies. Additionally, the ambitious goals of ARPA-E attract talented students and researchers from our university and national laboratory networks to work on critical energy issues. Scientists and engineers across many disciplines are eager to help solve some of the most challenging energy problems tied to national security, global competitiveness, energy security and economic growth.

ESC encourages Congress to continue to demonstrate its bipartisan commitment to U.S. leadership in energy technologies by providing no less than \$375 million for ARPA-E in the FY 2019 appropriations bill.

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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.

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