November 25, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan:

President Obama has said that funding for research should be a priority for our country. We completely agree. As you prepare the Administration’s fiscal year 2016 budget request, we strongly urge you to provide robust and sustained funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and the important research and scientific facilities it supports, and to make this funding a priority.

The basic research supported by the DOE Office of Science provides the scientific and technical foundation the nation needs to address some of our most pressing challenges in discovery science, energy, medicine, and national and homeland security. In many cases, this research would not be possible without the suite of complex, cutting-edge, world-class facilities operated and maintained by the DOE Office of Science for use by tens of thousands of scientists and engineers from academia, industry, and other government agencies.

Among other things, the DOE Office of Science is supporting basic research applicable to the development of cost-effective and sustainable biofuels, the creation of advanced materials with unique properties of broad application to the energy and defense sectors, the development of fusion power for clean and abundant energy, the design of next-generation supercomputers 1,000 times faster and more powerful than the best that exist today, and the advancement of medical imaging technologies to help detect, diagnose, and treat diseases. Federal investment in basic scientific research has and will continue to deliver breakthroughs in these and other areas that will drive innovation, strengthen our competitiveness, sustain our economic growth, and create jobs.

Our economic competitors in China, India, South Korea, the European Union, and elsewhere are copying our approach to innovation and increasing their rate of investment in research and development. At the same time, sequestration’s spending caps are undermining continued U.S. leadership in science and technology. Now is not the time to reduce federal investment in the basic research and scientific facilities that are so critical to future economic growth.

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.
We recognize the challenge you face working with such a constrained federal budget, but we believe funding for the DOE Office of Science must be a priority, and is justified. For these reasons, we strongly urge you to make the DOE Office of Science a priority in the Administration’s fiscal year 2016 budget request.

Sincerely,

American Astronomical Society
American Chemical Society
American Geophysical Union
American Geosciences Institute
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Plant Biologists
Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Binghamton University
Boston University
Case Western Reserve University
Clemson University
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation (CASC)
Columbia University
Computing Research Association
Cornell University
Cray Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Florida State University
Fusion Power Associates
Geological Society of America
George Mason University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
IBM
Iowa State University
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Krell Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
Northern Illinois University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
Pace University
Pennsylvania State University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota School of Mines
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Stanford University
SUNY at Binghamton
Tech-X
The Ohio State University
University of California System
University of Chicago
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of North Texas
University of Southern California
University of Texas at Austin
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University

cc:  The Honorable John Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
    The Honorable Ernie Moniz, Secretary of Energy