

# ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

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## Statement in Support of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act, S. 2503

May 15, 2018

The member organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) commend Senators Lisa Murkowski and Maria Cantwell for introducing S. 2503 – the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act – a companion bill to H.R. 589, which passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support in 2017. ESC urges swift passage of this bipartisan legislation by the Senate.

S. 2503 affirms the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science’s important contributions to the United States’ economic competitiveness, energy security and national security. This legislation provides a comprehensive policy reauthorization for DOE Office of Science, which is the nation’s preeminent federal sponsor for early stage physical science research, with impacts in disparate fields, including energy, medicine and defense.

S. 2503 identifies and advances vital research activities and science infrastructure across DOE Office of Science Programs. Its focus on improving technology transfer at the national labs and continuing operation of the Energy Frontier Research Centers and the Energy Innovation Hubs – which both help bring universities, national laboratories, nonprofits, and industry together – will accelerate research toward meeting our critical energy challenges. Additionally, the bill’s inclusion of crosscutting, multidisciplinary research initiatives, such as solar fuels and energy storage, will help accelerate the pace of innovation for potentially transformative energy technologies.

Although S. 2503 includes several positive policy provisions, it notably lacks any authorized funding levels. ESC is committed to working with Congress in a bipartisan fashion to build on DOE Office of Science’s momentum from the fiscal year 2018 omnibus bill, and we look forward to addressing the needed authorization levels in future legislation. Sound policy and robust investment in DOE Office of Science programs are critical to ensuring our nation remain a global leader in science, technology and innovation.

ESC urges the Senate to pass S. 2503 and for the members of the House and Senate to continue to work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to support robust funding for DOE Office of Science.

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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.*

## ESC Membership

American Association for the Advancement of Science	Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
American Association of Petroleum Geologists	Krell Institute
American Astronomical Society	Lehigh University
American Chemical Society	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
American Geophysical Union	Materials Research Society
American Geosciences Institute	Michigan State University
American Institute of Physics	Michigan Technological University
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