



July 12, 2018

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

On behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an association of 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, I urge you to adopt the Senate-passed funding levels of \$6.65 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science and \$375 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) in the conference report for the FY 2019 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

AAU member research universities partner with the DOE Office of Science and ARPA-E to solve our nation's current and future energy challenges. The DOE Office of Science funds critical basic research and shared user facilities in all energy-related sciences from advanced computing to nuclear physics. As noted in the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee's recent report, *A Remarkable Return on Investment in Fundamental Research*, investments in DOE basic research have undergirded successes in national security and new energy technologies, transformed industries, led to new critical materials, and helped the U.S. reassert itself as global leaders in high-performance computing and other areas. ARPA-E is advancing high-risk, high reward research that has the potential to transform the energy landscape. Our adversaries and competitors around the globe continue to make major investments in both fundamental and catalytic research areas such as: quantum computing, advanced materials, cybersecurity, and fusion science. Our nation must do the same. We agree with Secretary of Energy Rick Perry's testimony to your respective committees earlier this year that ARPA-E provides "a good return on investment" and should continue to grow in capacity and scale.

Strong and growing investment in these agencies is essential American leadership into future energy frontiers. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman, President
Association of American Universities

cc: Conferees to the FY 2019 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act