



August 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
Resources U.S. Senate S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman, Energy and Natural
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Chairman Lee,

On behalf of the more than 100 member organizations in the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC), we strongly urge you to consider the nomination of Dr. Dario Gil as the Department of Energy (DOE) Under Secretary for Science as expeditiously as possible. Dr. Gil was reported favorably out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on April 30 and is still waiting for a full Senate confirmation vote.

Strong leadership for the DOE Office of Science and the broader DOE science and technology enterprise is essential. As the Under Secretary for Science, Dr. Gil will be uniquely positioned to execute the bold visions and strategies laid out by Congress and the Trump Administration for winning the artificial intelligence race, creating American jobs of the future in key energy sectors such as fusion, and staying ahead of international competition in other emerging technology areas including quantum information science, microelectronics, next-generation high-performance computing, and biotechnology.

Specifically, the Under Secretary of Science will be responsible for managing billions of dollars under the DOE Office of Science to build and upgrade research infrastructure at national laboratories and university research facilities. This includes the construction of world-class user facilities and instruments that currently support 40,000 researchers from academia, industry, and federal agencies, as well as upgrades and replacement of increasingly obsolete and unreliable support infrastructure to address growing deferred maintenance issues at DOE national laboratories. DOE Office of Science has consistently delivered these complicated and first-of-a-kind projects on time and on budget. Dr. Gil will also have oversight over most of the network of 17 DOE national laboratories, a source of competitive advantage for the nation. The new Under Secretary has the opportunity to use world-leading talent, scientific tools, and unique research facilities at these national labs to address the biggest science and technology challenges and ensure the United States can compete with foreign adversaries like China.

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.

In addition to research infrastructure, the new Under Secretary will manage a growing research portfolio to advance scientific breakthroughs and energy technology innovations. The Office of Science has a proven model of success in discovery and innovation with more than 100 Nobel Prizes associated with DOE Office of Science research, and breakthroughs tied directly to U.S. energy technology commercialization in every energy sector, including nuclear power, energy storage, smart grid technologies, biofuels and bioproducts, geothermal, and carbon capture and storage. In the short term, there are opportunities to double down on investments in emerging technologies such as AI and quantum and new energy technologies such as fusion that can revolutionize the pace of scientific discovery, the future of work and how we produce energy. Longer term, the DOE Office of Science remains the largest federal funder of the physical sciences and has a prominent role in advancing fundamental research that plants the seeds for future innovation and discovery. Equally important, the Under Secretary will be responsible for stewarding research initiatives to attract the best and brightest scientists and engineers to critical fields of science needed for energy and national security missions.

Given the important role the DOE Under Secretary for Science plays in advancing the country's science, energy, and national security missions, we strongly urge you to promptly consider his nomination.

Sincerely,

Leland Cogliani
Co-chair
202-289-7475
leland@lewis-burke.com

Sarah Walter
Co-chair
202-678-4000
swalter@msu.edu

ESC Membership

American Association for the Advancement of Science	Northeastern University
American Association of Physicists in Medicine	Northern Illinois University
American Association of Physics Teachers	Northwestern University
American Astronomical Society	Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU)
American Chemical Society	Optica
American Crystallographic Association	Pace University
American Geophysical Union	Penn State University
American Geosciences Institute	Princeton University
American Institute of Physics	Purdue University
American Mathematical Society	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
American Nuclear Society	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
American Physical Society	Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
American Society for Engineering Education	Society for Science at User Research Facilities
American Society of Agronomy	Soil Science Society of America
Acoustical Society of America (ASA)	South Dakota School of Mines
American Society of Mechanical Engineers	Southeastern Universities Research Association
American Society of Plant Biologists	SPIE
American Vacuum Society	Stanford University
Arizona State University	Stony Brook University
Association of American Universities	Tech-X Corporation
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	Tufts University
AVS – The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing	The Ohio State University
Battelle	University of Arizona
Binghamton University	University of Chicago
Biophysical Society	University of Colorado Boulder
Boston University	University of Delaware
Case Western Reserve University	University Fusion Association
City College of CUNY	University of Hawaii
Clemson University	University of Illinois System
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation (CASC)	University of Iowa
Consortium for Ocean Leadership	University of Maryland, College Park
Columbia University	University of Michigan
Computing Research Association	University of Missouri System
Council of Graduate Schools	University of Nebraska
Council of Scientific Society Presidents	University of North Texas
Cornell University	University of Oklahoma
Cray Inc.	University of Pennsylvania
Crop Science Society of America	University of Rochester
Duke University	University of Southern California
The Ecological Society of America	University of Tennessee
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology	University of Texas at Austin
Florida State University	University of Virginia
Fusion Power Associates	University of Wisconsin-Madison
General Atomics	Universities Research Association
Geological Society of America	Washington State University
George Mason University	Washington University in St. Louis
Georgia Institute of Technology	West Virginia University
IEEE-USA	Yale University
Iowa State University	
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC	
Krell Institute	
Lehigh University	
Long Island University	
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	
Materials Research Society	
Miami University of Ohio	
Michigan State University	
Michigan Technological University	
New York University	