



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

I am writing to you to express deep concerns about cuts in funding for key science and technology investments being considered in legislation before your Committee. As you know, the mission of the Department of Energy (DOE) is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing energy, environmental, and nuclear security challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. DOE-sponsored research in basic scientific discovery, applied research, and development has benefited the Nation through new technologies and sometimes entirely new industries, as well as education of the next generation of scientists and engineers. These investments not only drive innovation but also support research and development (R&D) work at the National Laboratories and academic institutions across the Nation, including in districts represented by members of your Committee.

Since its enactment, the America COMPETES Act, which your Committee is considering for reauthorization, has bolstered the foundations of our science and energy competitiveness through increased investment in R&D and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Strong and sustained Federal investment in these areas is essential to ensure that America's economic growth and progress continue and that America remains a global leader in science and innovation in the future.

Revoking the authority to research critical topics and prescribing limitations on science and technology investments jeopardizes innovative R&D programs at DOE. For instance, halving the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy funding would severely impede its ability to attract and retain quality program directors and limit the program's ability to advance cutting-edge technologies that could fundamentally change the way we generate, store, and use energy. ARPA-E is widely seen as a very successful program originally authorized in the COMPETES Act. Barring Federal regulatory authorities from relying on the results of DOE-sponsored research would result in the Federal government being less able to protect human health and the environment. This is mystifying given the Committee's call for science-based regulations. Cutting climate science funding would threaten DOE's climate observation and modeling capabilities, which is needed to determine the impacts and possible mitigation of climate change. It is time to stop debating what's not debatable and move on to bipartisan prudent approaches to mitigating the risks of climate change and adapting to its consequences. Eliminating support for



renewable energy demonstration projects for state and local government buildings would deprive businesses, consumers, and government agencies of innovative, cost-effective energy-saving solutions to improve their energy efficiency. This would come just as we are seeing the revolution in clean energy cost reduction in plain view.

The Department is privileged to play a role in delivering the innovative and transformative scientific and technological solutions to energy, security, economic, and environmental challenges facing the United States in the 21st century. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you to make certain Federal funding levels for investments in science and technology are sufficient to build upon current achievements and enable future progress.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please contact Brad Crowell, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest J. Moniz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ernest J. Moniz

cc: The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member