



April 20, 2015

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**Samuel H. Aronson**  
*Brookhaven National  
Laboratory*

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*Stanford University*

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*American Physical Society*  
**Kate P. Kirby**

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

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

As president of the American Physical Society (APS) and its more than 50,000 members, I want to express my gratitude for your service as leaders of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. I appreciate your ongoing efforts to raise the visibility of science, to promote the importance of STEM education, and to maintain the United States as a leader in science, technology, and innovation.

While APS thanks the committee for its general support of scientific research – and physics in particular – in the recently proposed *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015*, the bill contains numerous elements, both budget- and policy-related, that raise serious concerns for our organization and its members. These include, but are not limited to:

- Flat funding for NSF's Education and Human Resources (EHR) accounts, which are responsible for its STEM programs.
- Burdensome regulations for NSF's large-scale facility management that will lead to higher costs and inefficiencies.
- Steep budget cuts for NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economics (SBE) Directorate, DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) R&D programs and ARPA-E.
- Barring the results of any DOE-supported R&D activity from being "used for regulatory assessments or determinations by Federal regulatory authorities."
- The elimination of several energy efficiency programs, such as the Next Generation Lighting Initiative, Buildings Standard and the Secondary Electric Vehicle Battery Use Program.

We believe these provisions and others are detrimental to the health of our nation's science and technology enterprise, and they outweigh the bill's authorization increases for physics research.

While APS was previously a strong proponent of the original America COMPETES Act in 2007 and its reauthorization in 2010, we cannot support this bill in its current form. We welcome the opportunity to work with the committee to address the current bill's deficiencies and look forward to working together to ensure the U.S. remains a world leader in science and technology.

Sincerely,

Samuel H. Aronson