



**ENERGY SCIENCES
COALITION**

Statement in Support of ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2019

August 1, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Rankin Member Lucas:

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) supports Congressional efforts to reauthorize Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), increase funding, and set the agency on a positive, long-term trajectory. ARPA-E plays a unique and critical role in maintaining America's global leadership in energy technologies and our energy security.

In less than a decade, ARPA-E has demonstrated remarkable success in advancing high-risk, high-reward energy technology solutions. ARPA-E's track record includes 145 projects that have received over \$2.9 billion in private sector follow-on funding. Equally notable, 76 projects have formed new companies and 131 projects have partnered with other government agencies for further development. As another indicator of success, ARPA-E projects have advanced scientific understanding and technological innovation through 2,489 peer-reviewed journal articles and 346 patents.

Any reauthorization must affirm the important and unique role ARPA-E plays in helping to commercialize innovative energy technologies. Final legislation should allow the program to continue to use a highly competitive selection process to identify innovative projects, push them to meet aggressive milestones, and help technologies cross the valley of death so the private sector can then commercialize them. We are pleased that a broad array of Members of Congress recognizes that increased funding is needed to meet ARPA-E's true potential. Consistent with a June 2017 National Academies report, additional funding would be used to scale up promising breakthrough technologies that are still too risky to be advanced by the private sector or other DOE programs. ESC recommends authorized funding levels that would increase ARPA-E by at least four percent plus inflation each year. This funding increase is consistent with recommendations by the ESC for the Office of Science and by leading science policy organizations overall for what is needed to maintain U.S. leadership in science and technology.

ESC also supports new authorization for ARPA-E to address DOE's nuclear waste clean-up and management issues and support projects to improve the resilience, reliability, and security of our energy infrastructure. This flexibility is needed to ensure ARPA-E can respond to emerging and future energy challenges.

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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.

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