



ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

Statement in Support: S.1460 – The Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017

July 28, 2017: The member organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) commend Senators Murkowski and Cantwell for the introduction of S.1460 – the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017 (ENRA) – and urge the Senate to pass this legislation.

ESC strongly supports the 7 percent annual increases over the next 5 years to the authorization levels for the Department of Energy (DOE)'s Office of Science provided in S.1460. The bill's robust authorization levels demonstrate strong bipartisan support for the essential role the DOE Office of Science plays in driving our economic growth, increasing our competitiveness, and enhancing our energy and national security. A multi-year authorization representing a clear commitment to research goals of the DOE Office of Science also allows researchers to pursue cutting-edge science with greater assurance of continued support. ESC believes this long-term commitment is crucial to maintaining the vitality of our basic energy research programs that help train the next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs who will drive innovation and secure our energy future.

ESC members are also supportive of several of the bill's policy provisions. S. 1460 identifies and advances vital research activities and science infrastructure across the DOE Office of Science programs. Specifically, ESC supports the authorization of Energy Frontier Research Centers and Energy Innovation Hubs, which bring together multi-disciplinary groups of researchers from universities, national laboratories, nonprofits and industry to tackle grand energy challenges. The bill's inclusion of crosscutting research initiatives, such as solar fuels and electricity storage, will improve the pace of innovation for potentially transformative energy technologies. ESC also supports provisions that will improve technology transfer at the national labs to better leverage investments in basic research. Additionally, the bill's provisions related to the six major Office of Science programs will help advance key initiatives, including exascale computing; the production of bioenergy, biomass materials and liquid transportation fuels; new materials for fusion reactors; and world-leading science in particle physics.

With our competitors across Asia and Europe increasing their resources in science and technology, the U.S. must renew its commitment to scientific research investments to remain a global leader in science, technology and innovation. The strong authorization levels and research provisions for the DOE Office of Science put forward in S.1460 mark a clear – and necessary – step toward maintaining our global leadership in science and technology.

ESC urges the Senate to pass S. 1460 and then work with their House colleagues to pass a final bill that includes robust funding authorizations and research provisions for the DOE Office of Science.

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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.

ESC Membership

Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science Societies
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