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February 3, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the American Chemical Society (ACS), I am writing regarding S. 2012, *The Energy Policy and Modernization Act of 2015*. ACS represents 158,000 chemists and chemical engineers, and is among the nation's largest and oldest professional scientific societies.

Energy production and use are among the most critical and complex policy issues of our time, with significant implications for our environment, economy, and national security. ACS acknowledges that no current energy technology is simultaneously clean, affordable, and secure. We believe the government should play a major role in promoting sustainable energy production and use, and urge the Senate to include the following components in the final version of S. 2012:

- Energy Efficiency- ACS has previously endorsed the *Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act* to promote energy efficiency at the federal level while providing residential, commercial, and industrial users the tools necessary to reduce energy consumption. Although portions of the legislation are now law, we urge the Senate to take action to pass the remaining sections and continue to boost energy efficiency across our economy.
- Critical Materials- ACS strongly supports the *Minerals Security Act of 2015*, as incorporated in the legislation. Increasing research and development into critical and rare materials, including alternatives and recycling, is important to a broad range of energy storage technologies.
- Research and Development- ACS thanks the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for its robust reauthorization of Department of Energy Office of Science and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy. Basic energy R&D is the seed of long term energy sustainability, and critical to our future as a nation.
- Energy Storage & Grid Management- Because renewable energy resources cannot always be produced on demand, continued development of advanced electrical energy storage is essential to ensure that these resources are utilized to their full potential. Additionally, the unconventional nature of renewables indicates that grid management and modernization will be critical to its incorporation and use. We urge the Senate to promote research and development, as well as policy incentives to promote storage and grid management and modernization.

- Food/Water/Energy Nexus- ACS encourages integrated research aimed toward a sustainable food-energy-water system, developing technologies to foster safe, secure, efficient, and innovative use of resources.

ACS compliments the committee on its hard work in producing a comprehensive energy measure. We hope bipartisan consensus will work to ensure its passage and a smooth conference process including the above priorities. We look forward to working with you going forward on this critical issue. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Anthony Pitagno, Director of Advocacy at 202-872-4394 in the Office of Public Affairs.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Thomas Connelly, Jr.
Executive Director & CEO

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid