



**ENERGY SCIENCES
COALITION**

Statement in Support of ARPA-E Reauthorization Act of 2019

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) strongly supports S. 2714, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) Reauthorization Act of 2019, and encourages you to include this bill in a final energy research and development legislative package. ARPA-E plays a unique and critical role in maintaining America's global leadership in energy technologies and our energy security, and this bill sets the agency on a positive, long-term trajectory.

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.

Consistent with H.R. 4091, this bill affirms the important and unique role ARPA-E plays in helping to commercialize innovative energy technologies. Specifically, this legislation would 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. ESC also supports authorized funding levels that allow ARPA-E to meet its 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. Finally, ESC 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.

ESC looks forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation.

Contacts:	Christopher Carter Co-chair 610-216-5656 ccc317@lehigh.edu	Leland Cogliani Co-chair 202-289-7475 Leland@lewis-burke.com
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CC:	The Honorable Chris Van Hollen U.S. Senate 110 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510	The Honorable Lamar Alexander U.S. Senate 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
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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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