

June 9, 2014

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
Chair, House Energy Subcommittee
House Science Committee
2319 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Lummis:

On behalf of the non-profit research institute community, we strongly endorse the Department of Energy Research and Development Act of 2014.

Research and development is at the heart of what has made the United States the global leader in science, technology, security, and innovation. As much as 85% of U.S. GDP growth is attributed to advancements in science and technology. Our nation's non-profit research institutes excel at crossing the so-called "valley of death" for R&D, ensuring that our government's investments in R&D are well spent. While fewer in number than research universities and corporate research groups, non-profit research institutes have an enormous impact on our nation: from protecting the lives of warfighters, to making energy more efficient, computers more secure, and preventing and treating disease. We believe this legislation will help ensure that the research community will provide the taxpayers a strong return on their investments.

Non-profit research institutes also support revising the DOE R&D program to provide a cost-share waiver, for six years, for non-profit research institutions, including universities, at the applied research level. The current policy requiring a 20% private match for funds in effect skews the portfolio of funded research projects and participating research institutions. Non-profit research institutions lack the financial capacity to provide a 20% match for very early stage research that, while promising, does not yet have a clear commercial path. The current 20% funding match policy results in DOE missing opportunities to support the most innovative and forward-looking research initiatives.

Therefore, we proudly endorse this legislation and strongly hope that Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, passes this important legislation this year.

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