

COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY**  
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



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**Statement of Energy Subcommittee Chairman Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.)  
Hearing on Providing the Tools for Scientific Discovery and Basic Energy Research: The  
Department of Energy Science Mission**

**Chairman Lummis:** Good morning and welcome to today's hearing titled Providing the Tools for Scientific Discovery and Basic Energy Research: The Department of Energy Science Mission.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is the lead federal agency supporting fundamental scientific research for energy and the largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences. It funds basic research at universities, owns world-class National Laboratories, and makes available unique National Scientific User Facilities to conduct groundbreaking research.

These fundamental science and basic research activities provide the underpinnings of America's long-term economic competitiveness and result in scientific discoveries which change the way we look at the natural world. This scientific research has led to 113 Nobel Prize winners affiliated with DOE or its predecessor agencies. We must continue to pursue this standard of international excellence

A vibrant scientific ecosystem fosters innovation and discovery. The Department should continue to work with its academic, National Lab and industry stakeholders to achieve this goal. This includes providing the tools to the National Laboratories to reduce bureaucratic paperwork and regulation, as we heard in an Energy Subcommittee hearing in July. These efforts will enable taxpayer funding to be used more efficiently.

Given the current budgetary outlook of skyrocketing entitlement spending crowding out discretionary funding, it is imperative to maximize the value of limited tax dollars. DOE must prioritize its activities and assure each dollar is allocated effectively. I look forward to hearing from today's witnesses on how this can best be achieved.

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