

Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson  
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Hearing of the Energy Subcommittee  
*Providing the Tools for Scientific Discovery and Basic Energy Research: The Department of  
Energy Science Mission*  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Statement

Thank you Chairman Lummis for holding this hearing today, and I would also like to thank the witnesses for being here.

The Department of Energy's Office of Science is actually the largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the country, and it operates more than 30 national scientific user facilities whose applications go well beyond energy innovation. Our nation's top researchers from industry, academia, and other federal agencies use these facilities to examine everything from new materials that will better meet our military's needs, to new pharmaceuticals that will better treat disease, to even examining the fundamental building blocks of the universe. I believe that this stewardship of unique scientific research, including the nation's major national user facilities, is an important role that I hope the Department will continue to make one of its highest priorities.

I appreciate the Majority's efforts today to shine a spotlight on the good work carried out by the Office of Science, and to authorize many of its important programs. However, I have significant concerns about the funding levels in the Majority's discussion draft, which essentially amount to harmful cuts because they do not even keep up with the rate of inflation for research. These levels for fiscal year 2014 are actually less than the Senate Appropriations Mark and the Administration's request levels by almost 9%. I am also concerned with language that is clearly aimed at shifting support away from critical activities that the Office carries out to examine the science and impacts of climate change.

That said, I believe there is common ground in our support for many of the Office's programs. Yesterday I was pleased to circulate a discussion draft of the America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2013, produced by my staff, which includes several similar provisions to the Majority's draft. It also includes authorization for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy and a number of important legislative changes that would accelerate technology transfer and improve the management of our national laboratories.

With these two drafts in mind, I look forward to working with the Majority and the science and technology community to seek out that common ground, and to see if the concerns that I've raised can be reconciled.