



1828 L Street, N.W.  
Suite 810  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel 202.785.3756  
Fax 202.429.9417  
www.asme.org

August 25, 2015

Chairman Lisa Murkowski  
Chair, Senate Energy & Natural  
Resources Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Energy & Natural  
Resources Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

The ASME Energy Public Policy Task Force (Task Force) commends the Senate Energy & Natural Committee for its effort to assemble a broad, bipartisan energy package. In particular, the Task Force appreciates inclusion of language to the authorize increases in funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E).

ASME is a more than 130,000-member nonprofit, worldwide educational and technical society. It conducts one of the world's largest technical publishing operations, holds more than 30 technical conferences and 200 professional development courses each year, and sets some 600 industrial and manufacturing standards, many of which have become de facto global technical standards.

ASME has long advocated a balanced portfolio of energy supplies to meet the nation's energy needs, including advancing clean coal, petroleum, nuclear, natural gas, waste-to-energy, biomass, solar, wind, and hydroelectric power technologies. ASME also supports energy efficient building and transportation technologies, as well as transmission and distribution infrastructure sufficient to satisfy demand under reasonably foreseeable contingencies. A balanced energy portfolio will allow the U.S. to maintain its quality of life while addressing our environmental and security challenges. Sustained growth in the energy systems on which the U.S. depends will also require stability in licensing and permitting processes not only for power generating stations but also for transmission and transportation systems.

Increased investment in federal research supported by the Office of Science is critical to solving the economic challenges we face and vital to ensuring our future national energy security. As successive budget cycles come and go, the nation is getting further away from the funding trajectories necessary to sustain long-term energy innovation. Science programs in high energy physics, fusion energy sciences, biological and environmental research, basic energy sciences, and advanced scientific computing, serve, in some small way, every student and research institution in the country. Moreover, these programs provide the critically important fundamental research and discovery activities that are necessary for break-through innovation, but too risky and long-range to be funded by private industry. These funds support not only research at the DOE Laboratories, but also the work of a large number of researchers from other federal agencies, universities and colleges, and large and small companies performing cutting edge research across a wide array of disciplines.

*This statement represents the views of the Energy Public Policy Task Force of ASME's Board on Government Relations and is not necessarily a position of ASME as a whole.*

The Task Force is also in favor of language the Committee includes in the energy package to continue and grow the success of ARPA-E in developing and deploying transformational energy technologies. Since its creation in 2009, ARPA-E has spun out over 30 new energy companies and attracted more than \$850 million in private follow-on funding. The innovative research model the agency employs represents a significant opportunity for the U.S. to cultivate technological breakthroughs related to energy sources and uses. A steady commitment to ARPA-E has begun to encourage new energy technology innovation and the Task Force believes that this is a worthwhile endeavor for the DOE as we seek to accomplish breakthroughs in energy technology research.

As this bill moves forward, the Task Force hopes that this strong support for the Office of Science and the ARPA-E can be further increased. Additionally, we encourage you to oppose any significant cuts to other important DOE high-risk, high-reward and applied energy research programs.

We applaud the Committee for its understanding of the important role that scientific and engineering breakthroughs will play in meeting our national energy challenges. To promote such innovation, strong support for energy research will be necessary across a broad range of energy sources and technology readiness levels. DOE research plays a critical role in allowing the U.S. to use our current resources more effectively and in creating new energy technologies. The Task Force is pleased to respond to requests for additional information or perspectives on other aspects of our nation's energy programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Deckler".

Dan Deckler  
Chair, ASME Energy Public Policy Task Force