



N A R U C
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

July 26, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
U.S. Senate
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), we would like to thank you both for your recognition of the importance of scientific research to the United States' successes in the global market.

During the NARUC July 2017 Summer Policy Summit, the association adopted the attached resolution urging Congress to support adequate funding of the Department of Energy's National Laboratories. As the resolution recognizes, this will undoubtedly promote advancements in deployable technological solutions while ensuring the nation's economic and energy security.

NARUC hopes you and your colleagues will join our efforts to promote innovation while protecting America's energy security, by passing legislation that continues to fund the National Labs. In this time of tight fiscal policy, NARUC recognizes that Congress will have to prioritize. However, the significant economic growth and educational contributions of the National Laboratories cannot be overlooked.

On behalf of the nation's economic utility regulators, we urge each of you to support continued funding for the National Laboratories. We look forward to working with you and your staff throughout the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Powelson
NARUC President

Edward S. Finley, Jr.
Chairman of Electricity
Committee

Nancy Lange
Chairman of Energy Resources
and the Environment

Resolution Supporting the National Laboratories

Whereas the Department of Energy's ("DOE") National Laboratories, through scientific research and development, continue to advance the economic and energy security for the United States of America;

Whereas National Laboratories research activities contribute to regional and State economic growth in Oregon, Louisiana, West Virginia, and other states across the nation where laboratory facilities are located;

Whereas the research and technical support provided by the National Laboratories is an invaluable resource for State Utility Commissioners and Commission staff;

Whereas National Laboratories, through applied research programs with educational institutions, utilities, and the private sector, have cultivated and deployed countless technology solutions;

Whereas many State budgets cannot adequately support the necessary technological research that is critical to utility regulation;

Whereas National Laboratories continue to bring advancements in efficiency to all energy generation, resulting in decreased emissions and ratepayer benefits;

Whereas National Laboratories have expertise in renewable, nuclear, and fossil energy technology; analysis of energy systems; and project management, both domestically and internationally;

Whereas National Laboratories work in close collaboration with DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Office of Fossil Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy, and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; *and*

Whereas significant budget reductions to many programs within the National Laboratories have been proposed; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2017 Summer Policy Summit in San Diego, California, strongly urges Congress and the Administration to adequately fund all aspects of the National Laboratories to promote continued advancements in deployable technological solutions while ensuring the nation's energy security.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Electricity and Energy Resources and the Environment on July 18, 2017
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 19, 2017*