



**ENERGY SCIENCES
COALITION**

April 17, 2020

Honorable Dan Brouillette
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Brouillette:

On behalf of the nearly 100 organizations that comprise the Energy Sciences Coalition and advocate on behalf of the Department of Energy Office of Science, we urge you to continue the 10-week “summer research experience” – and develop alternative, remote programs as necessary to ensure safe working environments – for students this summer. Summer programs at the DOE national laboratories and sites are critical for enhancing a student’s academic and professional credentials for graduate school, internships and jobs in the scientific enterprise. Exposure to STEM fields and the positive experiences DOE provides are invaluable to maintaining U.S. competitiveness and attracting the future pipeline of workers to energy and national security careers. These summer programs are also focused on attracting students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM.

We fully understand the critical challenges labs and sites are facing, and we believe these world-class centers of science and technology have the knowledge and the technical skills to find creative ways to continue to serve these students, while also ensuring their safety and security. Now it is especially important that we take steps to sustain the critical human infrastructure that undergirds the U.S. research enterprise by ensuring that STEM students have the opportunity to work alongside DOE researchers.

We ask you to continue these summer experience programs that stimulate, motivate, recruit, encourage, support and promote young people to contribute to STEM fields and DOE’s important work, while also taking the necessary steps to ensure everyone’s safety. One of these students could be the next Nobel Prize winner. Thank you for your consideration.

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The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) is a broad-based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers and mathematicians in universities, industry and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and in particular, the DOE Office of Science.