



Chairman Mike Simpson

*Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations*

**FY 2016 Budget Hearing: Department of Energy's
Science accounts
March 17, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared**

The hearing will come to order.

I'd like to welcome our witnesses, Dr. Franklin Orr, Under Secretary for Science and Energy, and Dr. Pat Dehmer, Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

Dr. Orr and Dr. Dehmer, the budget request provides \$5.3 billion for the Office of Science, a five percent increase over last year's level. The Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the United States and its activities have resulted in some of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the twentieth century. In the past, these breakthroughs occurred almost entirely at facilities in the United States. However, as the scale and complexity of the experiments increase, so do the costs of building new facilities. Cutting edge science, now more than ever, is reliant on multi-billion dollar facilities that few, if any, countries are willing to support alone. Ensuring that our taxpayer dollars are contributing to breakthroughs that enhance American competitiveness within this international context is just one of the challenges you need to address.

The balance between optimal operation of our current facilities and constructing new ones is another. While the budget request avoids choosing between these activities by providing increases for both, the reality is that the current fiscal climate does require such tough decisions.

I look forward to discussing with you both how the Office of Science will make these hard choices and continue to ensure our country's leadership in the scientific community.

Dr. Dehmer, please ensure that the hearing record, questions for the record, and any supporting information requested by the Subcommittee are delivered in final form to us no later than four weeks from the time you receive them. Members who have additional questions for the record will have until the close of business tomorrow to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

With that, I'll turn to Ranking Member Kaptur for her opening statement.

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