

Representative Chuck Fleischmann
Hearing on the Department of Energy's
Science Account
March 2, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared

The hearing will come to order.

Good Afternoon, Mr. Simpson has asked me to get things started for today's hearing.

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

Dr. Orr, it's good to see you again. It was great to participate with you at Lab Day on the Hill last fall. What a great turnout we had that day to see first-hand the great work our national labs are doing - solving so many tough national and international problems.

Dr. Murray, thank you for coming by to meet with me in January. It's great to have you here, as well, for your first appearance before our subcommittee. Thank you both, and welcome.

Dr. Orr and Dr. Murray, the budget request provides \$5.6 billion for the Office of Science, a four percent increase over last year's level. The Office of Science has helped usher in some of the most important scientific breakthroughs in the twentieth century and will continue to support important innovations in the future. However, the balance between supporting core research activities that maintain US leadership in the energy sciences while also planning for new experiments will be one of the major challenges you face as we move into the next phase of scientific discovery. The request assumes that the Office of Science's research, operation, and construction goals can be met but increasing budgets are not a given. Your challenge is to ensure that new facilities don't come at the expense of your research mission.

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. Murray, 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 Friday to provide them to the Subcommittee office.

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

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