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**ASME Energy Public Policy Task Force Statement on
U.S. Department of Energy FY 2025 R&D Budget**

May 2, 2024

Chairwoman Patty Murray
Senate Appropriations Committee
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Vice Chair Susan Collins
Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Charles Fleischmann
Energy & Water Subcommittee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member John Kennedy
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur
Energy & Water Subcommittee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Tom Cole
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Ranking Member Kennedy, Chairman Cole, Chairman, Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Energy Public Policy Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to provide feedback on the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget for Research and Development (R&D) programs at the Department of Energy (DOE). The Task Force commends Congress for continuing its strong, bipartisan support for R&D programming within the U.S. Department of Energy in FY24 appropriations. To build on this support, we recommend providing real, above inflation growth in R&D funding for the DOE in FY 2025, in line with the recommendations of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022.

This level of funding is necessary to accelerate the construction of world-leading scientific facilities, support groundbreaking science and engineering discoveries, advance new technologies to meeting national energy policy goals, and grow a highly skilled and geographically and technically diverse workforce.

Congress has continually demonstrated appreciation for the role that energy innovation must play in enhancing our energy security and in strengthening the U.S. economy. ASME has long advocated for maintenance of a balanced portfolio of energy technologies to meet the nation's growing energy needs in an environmentally sustainable way. The DOE's R&D program portfolio provides the only or primary source of independent and unbiased energy research across a wide range of topics affecting the power/energy/environmental community. 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 energy supply systems, and transmission and transportation systems.

To maintain a funding trajectory that ensures continued support for groundbreaking scientific discoveries, as well as the construction and operation of world-class scientific facilities, the Task Force urges Congress to provide strong, above inflation growth funding for the Department of Energy's R&D activities in FY 2025.

Members of the Task Force consider the issues related to energy to be some of the most important facing our nation. There is an urgent need for more coherent and consistent national energy policies to encourage adoption of cleaner and more energy efficient technologies. We applaud Congress for their understanding of the important role that scientific and engineering breakthroughs will play in meeting our energy challenges and competing in the industries of the future. To promote such innovation, strong support for energy research will be necessary across a broad range of technology options. DOE research can play a critical role in allowing the U.S. to use our current resources more effectively and to create more advanced 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,

Mindy Grinnan, Co-Chair
ASME Energy Public Policy Task Force

Frank Michell, Co-Chair
ASME Energy Public Policy Task Force