America’s Research Infrastructure is Essential

- Early stage scientific research is a pillar of America’s innovation ecosystem.
- The breakthrough discoveries and innovations stemming from early stage research drive economic growth, increase our competitiveness, enhance our national security, and improve the quality of life for all our citizens.
- These successes are enabled by a research infrastructure – located at national labs, universities and research facilities across the country.

America’s Research Infrastructure Needs Updating

- During the mid-20th century, the U.S. government began developing a research infrastructure unrivaled by other nations.
- Unfortunately, the nation has failed to maintain this infrastructure, and many of our research facilities no longer meet the needs of modern research, jeopardizing our competitiveness and the jobs that go with it.
- Our counterparts in Asia and Europe are aggressively investing in modern facilities, attracting some of the best researchers from around the world.
- For America to remain a leader in science, technology and innovation, we must upgrade our research facilities and scientific equipment.

America’s Research Infrastructure can be Restored

The national labs, universities and federal science agencies – including DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST and NSF – have the plans; the technology is available; and construction can begin immediately. To maximize taxpayer value, two principles can guide the investment:

1. Public Value: research infrastructure projects must provide a broadly shared benefit
2. Essential: research infrastructure projects must be central to the mission of the sponsoring agency and fit within its envelope of activities and operations

Congress should include research infrastructure as a part of any potential infrastructure initiative.