



Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.)
Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

June 5, 2018

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein,

On behalf of the National Photonics Initiative (NPI), I would like to thank you for including language regarding Intense Ultrafast Lasers in the Committee mark for the FY2019 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Intense ultrafast lasers hold great value for research. There is a direct connection between advances in many areas of fundamental and applied science and the development of technologies like compact particle accelerators or the properties of materials in extreme conditions. We appreciate the committee's recognition of the National Academies' *Opportunities in Intense Ultrafast Lasers, Towards the Brightest Light* report as a guide to U.S. investment in the critical field of intense ultrafast lasers.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for including \$80 million for the Omega facility within the Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE). High-intensity, ultrafast laser facilities like the LLE, based in Rochester, New York, are vital contributors to our national security. Research conducted at the LLE supports the maintenance and modernization of our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. The LLE also serves as the largest National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) training facility for graduate students in the United States. Continued federal support will be essential if these labs are going to be able to continue their important and groundbreaking research and training. We have attached a one pager on the LLE for additional background.

The NPI, which is a collaborative alliance among industry, academia, and government formed to raise awareness of photonics and increase cooperation to drive advancements in this field, has long advocated for expanded U.S. leadership in the field of high-intensity lasers. The plan requested by the Committee will serve an important purpose in moving this research forward.

The NPI stands ready to serve as a resource for the Subcommittee on this matter and I thank you again for including Intense Ultrafast Lasers in the Committee mark for the FY2019 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Ed White

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed White". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Chairman, NPI Steering Committee