



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 29, 2013

A Message from Secretary Moniz to Snowmass on the Mississippi

I am happy to wish the High Energy Physics community a successful meeting at Snowmass. I regret that I am not able to attend the meeting in person, but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you all on the recent discovery of the Higgs boson, which substantially completes the Standard Model picture of matter and energy. This discovery marks an exciting milestone for particle physics, as the work shifts to a focus on physics beyond the standard model such as neutrino properties, the origin of the matter-antimatter asymmetry, and the properties and nature of dark matter.

We are all aware of the serious science and technology challenges that are faced by the Nation. President Obama has made clear that we must address the pressing issues of climate change by finding clean and renewable sources of energy for the American economy. The Department of Energy is playing a critical role in supporting the groundbreaking science and innovation that is essential to solving these challenges.

As the Department works to address these pressing national priorities, we also understand the need to properly balance the discovery science research program needs in our portfolio. High Energy Physics (HEP) is an outstanding example of one of the discovery science areas the Department supports. We all understand the difficult fiscal climate in Washington, but I want to make clear that the Department understands the importance of high energy physics and we remain committed to the U.S. HEP research portfolio.

This gathering comes at a crucial time for your community as each you consider the future challenges and opportunities facing your field. I look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations, and eventually from HEPAP a prioritized plan for how to take the next steps into the new era beyond the standard model high energy physics. This plan is vital for the Department to be able to make the decisions needed to balance HEP needs with our other urgent priorities. It is equally vital that the HEP community comes together to support the plan that results from the HEPAP deliberations. The U.S. HEP Program is a leader in the global effort to unravel the secrets of matter and energy. Your efforts will keep us on the front edge of this exciting pathway of discovery. My best wishes for a successful and productive meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest J. Moniz".

Ernest J. Moniz

