

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office **of the Press** Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Dr. Steven E. Koonin, Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Dr. Steven E. Koonin is currently Chief Scientist for BP, plc, where he is responsible for guiding the company's long-range technology strategy, particularly in alternative and renewable energy sources. Koonin joined BP in 2004 following a 29-year career at the California Institute of Technology as a Professor of Theoretical Physics, including a 9-year term as the Institute's Provost. He has served on numerous advisory bodies for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy and its various national laboratories. Koonin's research interests have included theoretical and computational physics, as well as global environmental science. He did his undergraduate work at Caltech and has a PhD from MIT.