

SAMPLE LETTER re: CUTS in the OFFICE OF SCIENCE/DOE

April 8, 2005

The Honorable David Hobson, Chairman
(*Peter J. Visclosky, Ranking Member*)
Energy & Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman
(*The Honorable Harry Reid, Ranking Member*)
Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
328 Hart Senate Office Building
(*528 Hart Senate Office Building*)
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative (name):

I am to writing to request that you reject the cuts proposed by the Administration to the Office of Science, and instead to increase the office funding by \$250 million – 7 percent over FY 05. In asking for your support, I join the Energy Science Coalition and a 62-member consortium of universities which also supports the recommendation.

In February, a coalition of educational, scientific and industrial organizations released a report entitled *The Knowledge Economy: Is the United States Losing its Competitive Edge?* In that report, The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation sites six benchmark areas and concludes that while the nation “still leads the world in research and discovery, our advantage is eroding rapidly as other countries commit significant resources to enhance their own innovative capabilities.”

Specifically, from 1995-2001, while the emerging economies of China, South Korea and Taiwan increased their gross R&D investments by 140 percent, the U.S. investment was only 34 percent. In fact, federal government investment in physical sciences as a percentage of gross domestic product has decreased by 36 percent from 1983 to 2003. If the U.S. is to retain our leadership in innovation and competitiveness, we must strengthen our commitment to science and research.

It is for this reason, I am writing to ask for your specific attention to the Department of Energy’s Office of Science appropriation for FY06. As (*president/provost/vice president/professor*) at an institution which receives Office of Science funding for university-based research, (*AND/OR has specific connections to the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility*), I am concerned at the recommended cut of 3.8 percent in the Administration’s FY06 budget. This is particularly important in light of Congress’ commitment to initiate projects in the Department’s 20-year plan (*– specifically the 12 GeV upgrade at Jefferson Lab*).

As our institution and faculty benefits from the world-renowned science executed by the Office of Science, (*and at the Jefferson Lab, and noting that a third of all U.S. Ph.D’s in nuclear physics awarded are based on work performed at JLab*), I hope that you will work to protect this item in the Department of Energy from cuts of any kind. Thank you for your leadership and stewardship of this critical investment in our nation’s future.

Additionally, I have enclosed a resolution passed by the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) of which (university name) is a member.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

