

Resolution of the *Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA)*

**Regarding Support for the Budget of the Office of Science,
U.S. Department of Energy**

WHEREAS the federal government historically has played a key role in the support of basic research in the national interest, and

WHEREAS the results of basic research in the physical sciences provide for significant advances in national defense, homeland security, life sciences, information technology, economic growth and improvements in the quality of life, and

WHEREAS federal research investments are falling significantly behind the growth of the U.S. economy at a time when our nation is even more reliant on innovations stimulated by science and engineering support and is falling behind our international competitors, and

WHEREAS the Office of Science of the Department of Energy (DOE) is the largest sponsor of federal research in the physical sciences (42 percent) with more than 15,000 sponsored scientists and students conducting cutting-edge experiments at DOE research facilities, and

WHEREAS the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget recommendations for the Department of Energy would reduce Office of Science funding by 3.8 percent, and the Nuclear Physics program specifically by 8.4 percent, and

WHEREAS the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility – managed and operated for DOE by the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) and a recipient of these funds – would have to reduce operating time by roughly 25 percent, requiring up to a 10 percent reduction in force, thus impacting the quality and pace of first-in-class science at this facility, and

WHEREAS SURA has joined the Energy Science Coalition – a consortia of university and industry partners supporting federal labs – in advocating a 7 percent increase in Office of Science funding as physical science funding as a percentage of GDP has been cut roughly in half since 1970, and

WHEREAS the Office of Science also allocates almost 20 percent of its budget to university-based research in every state, including 51 of the 62 SURA member universities in the amount of \$151 million in fiscal year 2004;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA), a consortium of 62 universities primarily in the Southeastern U.S. that manages the Jefferson Lab in Newport News, Virginia – strongly urges the Congress to reject the recommended cuts in the Administration's FY06 budget request for the Department of Energy's Office of Science and to instead increase the Department's funding to \$3.85 billion, which is \$250 million or 7 percent above the FY 2005 funding level.

