

ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

November 5, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As you continue your work on the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills, the undersigned organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) write to express concerns about the funding level provided for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science in the bill approved by the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and urge the committee to provide increased funding for the vital basic research it supports.

Congress committed in 2007 to increase funding for the DOE Office of Science when it enacted the bipartisan America COMPETES Act. In adopting this measure, which was consistent with the innovation agendas of both political parties as well as the recommendations of the National Academies report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, Congress affirmed the importance of basic research to economic growth and energy security. However, the fiscal year 2011 bill approved by the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee deviates from the COMPETES commitment, providing \$4.900 billion for the DOE Office of Science, \$4 million below the fiscal year 2010 funding level and \$221 million below the Administration request. Without the requested funding, the DOE Office of Science will not be able to support more graduate fellowships, additional Energy Frontier Research Centers, or an Energy Innovation Hub focused on overcoming the challenges of energy storage, and it will be unable to sustain its core research programs and user facilities at fiscal year 2010 levels.

As the U.S. economy continues to struggle and international competition for quality jobs grows, Congress should not back away from the commitment it made in America COMPETES. Instead, we need to invest in the kind of basic research so critical to improving our energy security and national competitiveness, meeting our environmental challenges, and producing new jobs and innovative technological breakthroughs that will fuel our economy well into the future. We need to invest in basic research at universities and national laboratories, the education and training of thousands of future scientists and engineers, and the operation of one-of-a-kind scientific facilities utilized by over 25,000 scientists annually from industry, academia, and government. In short, we need to invest in the DOE Office of Science, the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences, and a unique and critical component of the federal research enterprise.

We recognize and appreciate the tremendous fiscal constraints the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee faced in crafting its bill in light of its 302(b) allocation. As the process moves forward, however, we would ask that you work with the subcommittee chair and ranking member and the House leadership to find a way to provide the increased funding requested for DOE science programs.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Chemical Society
American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society

American Society of Agronomy
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Plant Biologists
Arizona State University

The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) is a broad based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers and mathematicians in universities, industry and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and in particular, the DOE Office of Science.

ASME
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium
(BASIC)
Binghamton University
Biophysical Society
Breakthrough Institute
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Coalition for Academic Scientific Computation
(CASC)
Columbia University
The Computing Research Association
Cornell University
The Council of Energy Research and Education
Leaders
Council of Graduate Schools
Cray Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
Duke University
East Bay Economic Development Alliance
EverSealed Windows, Inc.
Federation of American Societies for Experimental
Biology
Florida Atlantic University
The Florida State University
General Atomics Corporation
IBM Corporation
IEEE-USA
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Krell Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
The National Council for Science and the
Environment
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northern Illinois University
The Ohio State University
Penn State University
Procter & Gamble Company
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials
International (SEMI)
Semiconductor Industry Association
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Soil Science Society of America
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Stanford University
State University of New York
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
TechAmerica
TechNet
Tech-X Corporation
Texas A&M University
Tulane University
University of Buffalo
University of California System
University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
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University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Delaware
University of the District of Columbia
University of Florida
University of Houston
University Of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of New Mexico
The University of North Carolina
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Southern California
The University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Universities Research Association, Inc.
Vaisala, Inc.
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Virginia University
Yale University

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
The Honorable Robert Bennett, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development