



**Southeastern Universities
Research Association** ®

Press Release

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For Immediate Release
www.sura.org**

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SURA Commends Senate Committee for Energy Lab Funding

Washington, DC – The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) today applauded the Senate Appropriations Committee for increasing funding levels for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. The Energy and Water Appropriations bill (H.R. 2419) was passed by the full committee June 16. The \$103 million increase over fiscal year 2005 levels was heralded as “a crucial investment in maintaining our nation’s leadership in the physical sciences.”

SURA President and CEO Jerry P. Draayer expressed SURA’s appreciation to committee leaders. “Recognizing the difficult work facing Congress in dealing with budget deficits and maintaining our scientific edge, I am grateful for your leadership in addressing this ... commitment to the federal laboratory system.” The office had been targeted for a 3.2 percent reduction in the Administrations FY06 budget request.

Draayer also referenced the strong support from 68 Senators who expressed support for such an increase in a “Dear Colleague” letter this Spring. In that letter to the committee chairman and ranking member, they wrote: “Unless we stop this slide and restore the budget to a reasonable level, our entire U.S. scientific enterprise is in danger of eroding.”

SURA serves as the management and operating contractor for the Department of Energy’s Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, Virginia, which is funded through the Office of Science. Jefferson Lab is a renowned research facility with over 2,000 international users. Nearly one-third of the Ph.D.’s awarded in nuclear physics in the U.S. results from research done at the lab. Plans are underway to construct a major upgrade to the facility, a project for which the Department has established and approved a “mission need.” SURA was responsible for the 1980 initiative that created Jefferson Lab and has been responsible for its operation since construction was completed in 1995.

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The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit www.sura.org.