Dear Colleague:

We ask you to join us in signing the attached letter to the leaders of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water urging them to provide the Department of Energy’s Office of Science with, at a minimum, the Administration’s request of $5.121 billion for FY 2011.

There has been strong bipartisan support for increasing the Office of Science budget in previous years. This support was demonstrated by the overwhelming bipartisan approval of the America COMPETES Act of 2007, by previous letters – which many of you have joined with us in signing – in support of the important work of the Office of Science, and by the subsequent funding increases provided by the Appropriations Committee.

The Office of Science is the main federal sponsor of basic research aimed at achieving the scientific breakthroughs necessary to meet our nation’s need for clean, abundant energy that can ensure our future energy security. In addition, the Office of Science is our nation’s largest supporter of physical sciences research. Funding by the Office of Science has led to scientific breakthroughs which, among other things, have resulted in the Nobel Prize-winning discovery that ushered in nanotechnology, made possible the non-invasive detection of cancers and other diseases, improved computer models for understanding environmental and energy challenges, and led to new insights into the fundamental nature of matter and origins of the universe. It is also important to note that research funded by the Office of Science takes place at universities, federal labs, and other facilities located in all fifty states.

Federally-funded scientific research is critical to American competitiveness. It is an essential investment in the ideas and innovation that enable us to compete and lead in the global economy and to create new, high-paying jobs in the United States. It also leads to economic growth and the development of entirely new industries.

Following the recommendation of the groundbreaking “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” report by the National Academies, the America COMPETES Act put funding for the Office of Science on track to double. The President’s budget sustains the commitment Congress made when it passed the COMPETES Act.

If you would like additional information or would like to sign on to the attached letter, your office may contact Jonathan Epstein with Senator Bingaman at 224-5521 (jonathan_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov) or Adam Rondinone with Senator Alexander at 224-8983 (adam_rondinone@alexander.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator

Lamar Alexander
United States Senator
The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
Chairman  
Energy and Water Development  
Subcommittee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development  
Subcommittee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Bennett:

We are writing to express bipartisan support for FY 2011 funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science of at least $5.121 billion, the level requested by the Administration.

Congress’s approval of the America COMPETES Act in 2007 put funding for the Office of Science on track to double. The Administration’s FY 2011 budget request maintains that course and sustains the bipartisan goals of this important legislation. Moreover, it builds upon the past commitment demonstrated by your Subcommittee in support of DOE science.

The Office of Science is the main federal sponsor of basic research aimed at achieving the scientific breakthroughs necessary to meet our nation’s need for clean, abundant energy that can ensure our future energy security. In addition, the Office of Science is our nation’s largest supporter of physical sciences research. Funding by the Office of Science has led to scientific breakthroughs which, among other things, have resulted in the Nobel Prize-winning discovery that ushered in nanotechnology, made possible the non-invasive detection of cancers and other diseases, improved computer models for understanding environmental and energy challenges, and led to new insights into the fundamental nature of matter and origins of the universe. It is also important to note that research funded by the Office of Science takes place at universities, federal labs, and other facilities located in all fifty states.

Through its many world-class user facilities and programs, the Office of Science plays an indispensable role in attracting, training, and sustaining the nation’s scientific workforce. Thousands of university researchers – professors, young post-doctoral scientists, and undergraduate students – rely on support from the Office of Science. Approximately one-third of Office of Science research funds support scientists and researchers at over 300 academic institutions nationwide while roughly half of the researchers using facilities run by the Office of Science come from these universities. Many more researchers from the private sector also benefit from the usage of DOE’s scientific user facilities.
In previous years, the Senate and your Subcommittee have demonstrated strong bipartisan support for increasing funding for the Office of Science. You are to be commended for your efforts to assign a high priority to the Office of Science in light of the tremendous budgetary constraint you have faced. We urge you to continue your support for the Office of Science this year, for we must maintain this critical investment in our nation's future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman

Lamar Alexander