

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2008

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask for your support for at least the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 request of \$ 4.722 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science by signing the attached letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

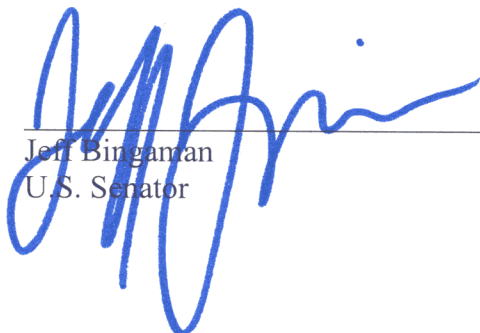
There has been strong bipartisan support for increasing funding for the Office of Science. In April 2006, 70 senators signed a letter in support of the President's funding request for Fiscal Year 2007. Again in March 2007, 64 senators signed a similar letter in support of the President's Fiscal Year 2008 funding request.

The Office of Science is authorized to receive \$5.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2009 under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58). In approving the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-69), Congress recognized that investing in basic scientific research is critical to preserving America's brainpower advantage so that we can compete in the global economy and keep our good jobs from going overseas. The America COMPETES Act authorizes the doubling of the Office of Science's budget over a seven-year period, and the President's request is consistent with this important bipartisan policy goal.

The Office of Science is the largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences, providing over 40 percent of such funding, and is the main builder and operator of large-scale scientific facilities and instruments that are increasingly important to our scientific leadership. It is widely recognized by economists that investments in science and innovation are key to growing high-quality, good-paying jobs and a growing economy. In addition, the Office of Science is the main federal sponsor of basic research aimed at achieving the scientific breakthroughs necessary to meet our nation's growing needs for clean, abundant energy.


We'd be glad to furnish additional information, or your office may wish to be in touch with Jonathan Epstein with Senator Bingaman at 224-5521 or [jonathan\\_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov](mailto:jonathan_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov), or Jack Wells with Senator Alexander at 224-4944 or [jack\\_wells@alexander.senate.gov](mailto:jack_wells@alexander.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



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Jeff Bingaman  
U.S. Senator



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Lamar Alexander  
U.S. Senator

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

XXXX XX, 2008

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

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

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Domenici:

We are writing to express our support for at least the President's Fiscal Year 2009 request of \$4.722 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science.

The Office of Science is authorized to receive \$5.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2009 under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58). In approving the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-69), Congress recognized that investing in basic scientific research is critical to preserving America's brainpower advantage so that we can compete in the global economy and keep our good jobs from going overseas. The America COMPETES Act authorizes the doubling of the Office of Science's budget over a seven-year period, and the President's request is consistent with this important bipartisan policy goal.

Under your leadership, the Subcommittee has approved Energy and Water appropriations bills with increases in the Office of Science funding consistent with its near-term doubling. Unfortunately, due to breakdowns in the appropriations process, those funding levels have not been fully realized. This year, it is very important that we get the Office of Science's budget back on track.

The Office of Science is at the forefront of our efforts to preserve America's competitive edge and avoid being overtaken by nations like China and India. Strengthening our investment in the Office of Science is the right thing to do to meet our long-term challenges for abundant energy, clean air and water, and a vibrant economy.

The Office of Science is supporting discoveries in essential new fields – biotechnology, nanotechnology, and supercomputing – that will revolutionize the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. With past performance as our guide, we can look forward to even more breakthroughs, such as: stronger, more functional materials; improved understanding of climate change; advances in nuclear medicine to detect and treat cancer without invasive surgery; better sensors for homeland security and our troops in the field; and new transportation fuels produced from crops and agricultural wastes.

In addition, through its many world-class user facilities and programs, the Office of Science plays an indispensable role in attracting, educating, training, and sustaining the nation's scientific workforce. Thousands of university researchers – professors, "post-docs", and undergraduate students – also rely on support from the Office of Science each

