

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2006

The Honorable David Hobson
Chairman
Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Appropriations
Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As you begin your work on the fiscal year 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for the \$4.1 billion in funding proposed by the President for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science in his fiscal year 2007 budget request. This represents a 14.1 percent increase over current funding.

As part of his American Competitiveness Initiative, President Bush proposes to double federal funding for basic research in the physical sciences over the next decade. Supporting over 40 percent of basic research in the physical sciences – more than any other federal agency – the DOE Office of Science is the nation's primary supporter of research in the physical sciences.

We face a world in which our economic competitors in Asia and Europe are making significant new investments in their own research capabilities. These investments are beginning to pay off, as Asian and European countries challenge U.S. leadership in the sciences no matter how it is measured – by number of patents won, articles submitted to scientific journals, degrees awarded, Nobel prizes won, or the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) dedicated to research and development.

Report after report – from the National Academy of Sciences and the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to the Task Force on American Innovation and the Council on Competitiveness – calls on Congress and the President to invest in U.S. research capabilities. The benefits of such an investment to the U.S. economy and U.S. competitiveness are well known. Economic experts have concluded that science-driven technology has accounted for more than 50 percent of the growth of the U.S. economy during the last half-century.

Even as we face greater international competition, these are exciting times for science in the United States. There are many great opportunities for scientific discovery, and the DOE Office of Science is prepared and positioned to seize them. In its *Facilities for the Future of Science: A Twenty-Year Outlook*, the Office of Science has developed a balanced investment strategy to ensure the U.S. retains its dominance in such key scientific fields as biotechnology, nanotechnology, materials science, and supercomputing well into the next century.

U.S. scientists are as bright as any in the world, but they traditionally have had better tools than everyone else. The DOE Office of Science has led the way in creating a unique system of large-scale, specialized user facilities for scientific discovery. These facilities are utilized by more than 19,000 researchers each year. Nearly half of those users are university faculty and students, many are from other federal agencies, and a significant number are now from U.S. industry. This collection of cutting-edge – often one-of-a-kind – tools makes the DOE Office of Science a unique and critical component of the federal science portfolio. Other federal science agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), greatly depend upon these DOE Office of Science facilities in carrying out their own research activities.

For these many reasons, we urge you to appropriate at least the \$4.1 billion requested by the President for the DOE Office of Science and the physical sciences research it supports. Furthermore, we urge you to focus this funding on mission-related activities, facilities, and projects, and to avoid using core program budgets to fund projects extraneous to the President's request. With this funding, the DOE Office of Science will attract the best minds, educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, support the construction and operation of modern facilities, and conduct even more of the quality scientific research that will ensure the U.S. retains its competitive edge for many years to come.

Thanks for your continued support for the DOE Office of Science. We are cognizant of the difficult budget situation under which your subcommittee is working, and we urge you to contact us if we may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

Julie Biegert Carol S. Adiff Wendy Tauscher
Hatha Wilson John Conroy
Kla Hatiz James Hillman
Terrence Ehlers Charles Rangel

Louis M. Slaughter

Noon Sechs

Jerry Moran

Lut R.

Darlene Horley

Tom Lantos

Eric O. Matsui

Miguel R. Larios

Jim Oberstar

Jack P.

Bob K. Duff

Jim V. Gutierrez

Tom Duvio

Gene Linn

Shel Ben

Jewell Kaddy

Carolyn

Paul H. Regal

Chef Edwards

Lynn Woolsey

Rosa L. DeLewo

Barnyfenk

Harriet J. Gilchrist

Sherry Boehmer

Wong Kikuan

Andia S. Velazquez

Jim Moran

E. Dams

William S. Mc. Nally

Donald Payne

Ben Carson

Kou Culbert

Rick Archer

J. Peace

Diane Price

Edna L. Erye

Patsy DeGj

Abel E. Kildee

Richard Shue

Doris Mae

[Signature]

Tony Baldoni

Rust Holt

Linda J. Sanchez

Jim Holt

Zee Lyy

Carolyn McCarty

Ed Case

John F. Turner

~~John~~

Bill Rog MI-08

Mark Wall

~~Anna~~ Shoo

Mike Ferguson

Tim Ryan

John Smith

Mike Thompson

Michael Michael

Mike Dwyer

John Sullivan

Michael T. McCaul

Frank Pallen, Jr.

John Brown

Steve Isaac

J. R. G.

Melissa L. Bean

Stephanie French

John Lewis

Ben Inglis

Charles A. J. My

Steve D. Lynch

J. J. Bomer

M. A. Row

John Dain

Albert R. Alford

Ken Jar

Tim Murphy

Earl Boney

Neil Abercrombie

Eddie Dennis Johnson

Hilda L. Solis

Barbara Lee

Lois Capps

Michael Maffardo

Grace S. Napolitano

Emanuel Cleam

Barth Stow

C. A. Duke Pappas

Joe Lopez

Pete Sessions

Anthony

Michael E. Capen

Leonard B. Brown

Raul M. Hyalera

Chris M. Volk

Tom Ullrich

Paul Miller

Phil English

Vin Dupler

Zach Wamp

Ron Kind

Paul Gardner

T. J.

Susan Davis

Daniel Lipinski

Danny K Davis

Ty Z

[Signature]

Jan Kraly

Bobby Macdonald

Jim McDermott

Tom Allen

John Davis

[Signature]

J. B. Ruan

[Signature]

Diana DeHette

Cathy McManis

Ben Chandler

Bob Filner

Steve Jackson Lee

Robert Ash

Bill Pascell Jr

Bart Szpak

Lamar Smith

Elijah E. Cummings

Bob L

J. Saxton

George Miller

Ken A. Waxman

Judy Biggert (R-IL)
Heather Wilson (R-NM)
Doc Hastings (R-WA)
Vern J. Ehlers (R-MI)

Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)
John Conyers Jr. (D-MI)
Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA)
Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)

Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY)
Jerry Moran (R-KS)
Darlene Hooley (D-OR)
Doris O. Matsui (D-CA)
Jim Oberstar (D-MN)
Bobby L. Rush (D-IL)
Tom Davis (R-VA)
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
Chet Edwards (D-TX)

Norman Dicks (D-WA)
Silvestre Reyes (D-TX)
Tom Lantos (D-CA)
Major R. Owens (D-NY)
Sander Levin (D-MI)
Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL)
Gene Green (D-TX)
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
John D. Dingell (D-MI)
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
Wayne T. Gilchrest (D-MD)
Gary L. Ackerman (D-NY)
Jim Moran (D-VA)
Michael R. McNulty (D-NY)
Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
Rick Boucher (D-VA)
David Price (D-NC)
Peter DeFazio (D-OR)
Richard E. Neal (D-MA)

Barney Frank (D-MA)
Sherry Boehlert (R-NY)
Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)
Edolphus Towns (D-NY)
Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)
Ken Calvert (R-CA)
Jim Leach (R-IA)
Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)
Dale E. Kildee (D-MI)
Dennis Moore (D-KS)

David Wu (D-OR)
Rush Holt (D-NJ)
Jim Costa (D-CA)
Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
John F. Tierney (D-MA)
Mike Rogers (R-MI)
Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
Tim Ryan (D-OH)
Mike Thompson (D-CA)
Mike Doyle (D-PA)

Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Linda T. Sanchez (D-CA)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Ed Case (D-HI)
Joe Schwarz (R-MI)
Mark Udall (D-CO)
Michael Ferguson (R-NJ)
Adam Smith (D-WA)
Michael Michaud (D-ME)
Jay Inslee (D-WA)

Michael McCaul (R-TX)
Jim McGovern (D-MA)
John Shimkus (R-IL)
Stephanie Herseth (D-SD)
Bob Inglis (R-SC)
Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA)
Mike Ross (D-AR)
Albert R. Wynn (D-MD)
Tim Murphy (R-PA)
Neil Abercrombie (D-HI)

Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
Steve Israel (D-NY)
Melissa L. Bean (D-IL)
John Lewis (D-GA)
Charles A. Gonzalez (D-TX)
Jo Bonner (R-AL)
Lincoln Davis (D-TN)
Harold Ford (D-TN)
Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)
Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)

Hilda L. Solis (D-CA)
Lois Capps (D-CA)
Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA)
Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
Jim Cooper (D-TN)
Lee Terry (R-NE)
Leonard L. Boswell (D-IA)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Brad Miller (D-NC)
Vic Snyder (D-AR)

Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Michael M. Honda (D-CA)
Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
C.A. Dutch Rupperberger
Pete Sessions (R-TX)
Michael E. Capuano (D-MA)
Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ)
Tom Udall (D-NM)
Phil English (R-PA)
Zach Wamp (R-TN)

Ron Kind (D-WI)
Tim Johnson (R-IL)
Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)
Timothy Bishop (D-NY)
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Jim McDermott (D-WA)
Jo Ann Davis (R-VA)
John B. Larson (D-CT)
Diana DeGette (D-CO)
Ben Chandler (D-KY)

Russ Carnahan (D-MO)
Susan Davis (D-CA)
Danny K. Davis (D-IL)
Anthony Weiner (D-NY)
Betty McCollum (D-MN)
Tom Allen (D-ME)
Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
Cathy McMorris (R-WA)
Bob Filner (D-CA)

Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
Lamar Smith (R-TX)
Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
George Miller (D-CA)

Robert Andrews (D-NJ)
Bart Stupak (D-MI)
Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD)
Jim Saxton (R-NJ)
Henry Waxman (D-CA)

cc: The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable David Obey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Members, Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee