

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2006

## Physical Sciences Research – Critical to America’s Competitiveness

### *Support Funding for the DOE Office of Science in Fiscal Year 2007 – A Key Component of the Administration’s American Competitiveness Initiative*

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in supporting the Administration’s request for a 14.1 percent increase for the Department of Energy Office of Science by signing the attached letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

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. However, our economic competitors in Asia and Europe are making significant new investments in their own research capabilities, challenging the scientific and economic leadership of the United States.

In response, President Bush proposes to double federal funding for basic research in the physical sciences over the next decade as part of his American Competitiveness Initiative. 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.

The DOE Office of Science is well-prepared and well-positioned to put this funding to work to maintain America’s competitiveness. In 2003, the DOE Office of Science developed a comprehensive, 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 future.

Report after report – including the National Academy of Sciences report *Rising Above The Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future* – calls on Congress and the President to invest in U.S. research capabilities. Last year, 118 Members of Congress joined us in supporting increased funding for the DOE Office of Science; their names are listed below. This year, we hope you will join us, and President Bush, in urging the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to provide \$4.1 billion for the DOE Office of Science in fiscal year 2007.

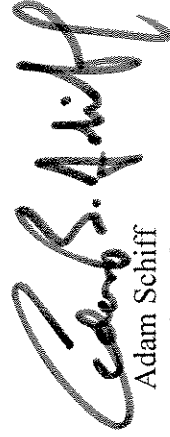
If you would like to sign this letter or if you have any questions, please contact Paul Doucette in Rep. Biggert’s office at 5-3515, Adrienne Rose in Rep. Schiff’s office at 5-4176, or Simon Limage in Rep. Tauscher’s office at 5-1880.

Sincerely,



Judy Biggert

Member of Congress



Adam Schiff

Member of Congress



Ellen Tauscher

Member of Congress

Signatories to last year’s letter: Abercrombie, Ackerman, Baldwin, Barrow, Berman, Biggert, Bishop, Boehlert, Boswell, Boucher, Butterfield, Calvert, Capps, Capuano, Cardin, Cardoza, Carnahan, Case, Chandler, Christensen, Cleaver, Cooper, Costa, Costello, Cummings, Davis (IL), Davis (CA), Davis (TN), Davis (VA), Defazio, DeLauro, Dicks, Dingell, Doyle, Duncan, Ehlers, Engel, Eshoo, Etheridge, Ferguson, Filner, Ford, Frank, Gilchrest, Gonzalez, Gordon, A. Green (TX), G. Green (TX), Grijalva, Gutierrez, Hastings (WA), Hinojosa, Holt, Honda, Hooley, Hyde, Inslee, Israel, Jackson-Lee, Jefferson, Johnson (IL), Kildee, Kind, Lantos, Larsen, Larson, Leach, Lee, Levin, Lipinski, Lofgren, Lynch, Maloney, Marshall, McCarthy, McCullum, McDermott, McGovern, McMorris, McNulty, Meehan, Michaud, Miller (NC), Miller (CA), Moore, Nadler, Napolitano, Neal, Pallone, Pascarell, Paul, Payne, Pomeroy, Price, Rangel, Reichert, Rogers, Ruppersberger, Rush, Schakowsky, Schiff, Schwartz, Scott, Sessions, Shimkus, Slaughter, Smith (WA), Smith (NJ), Snyder, Solis, Tauscher, Thompson, Tierney, Tubbs-Jones, Udall (CO), Udall (NM), VanHollen, Wamp, Weiner, Wilson, Wu

March X, 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,