



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 3, 2005

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The Honorable John B. Larson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Larson:

Thank you for your September 23, 2005, letter encouraging the U.S. Department of Energy to request funding for its fiscal year 2007 hydrogen technology budget at levels authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Act). The Act's hydrogen related provisions support the vision of a hydrogen economy shared by President Bush and congressional leaders. The activities authorized will help realize the long-term energy, environmental, and economic security benefits of hydrogen as an energy carrier.

I agree with the importance of research and development in overcoming commercialization barriers. In fact, for the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative, research and development accounts for over 80 percent of our fiscal year 2006 request currently under review by Congress. This \$260 million request represents an increase of more than 250 percent compared to appropriations made prior to the launch of the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative. I can assure you that we will plan a robust research program to keep the President's initiative a high priority. Furthermore, we will carefully consider the funding levels that Congress has authorized as we work to develop the President's fiscal year 2007 budget request and to nurture a nascent hydrogen and fuel cell industry.

I appreciate your continued support, which is demonstrated by the passage of this Act that includes the comprehensive hydrogen sections and by the creation of the House Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus. As you have suggested, hydrogen from diverse, domestic resources can improve our transportation energy mix from a resource and regional perspective. I believe that we are in agreement that hydrogen can put us on a path to energy independence and a cleaner environment for future generations.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Ms. Jill L. Sigal, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel W. Bodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "B" for Bodman.

Samuel W. Bodman

