

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 10, 2007

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

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

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Hobson:

Thank you for making basic research funding and economic competitiveness a priority by including \$4.5 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science in the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) Energy and Water Appropriations bill approved by the House in July. We share your commitment to increase federal funding for basic research in the physical sciences, and therefore urge you to retain this funding in the final bill for FY08.

As part of their innovation and competitiveness initiatives, Congressional Democrats, Republicans, and President Bush have proposed doubling federal funding for basic research in the physical sciences over the next five to ten years. Because the DOE Office of Science supports over 40 percent of total federal funding for basic physical sciences research – more than any other federal agency – increasing its funding is critical if we are to achieve our shared, bipartisan goal.

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 the Future of American Innovation and the Council on Competitiveness – has called 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 with adequate funding, the DOE Office of Science will ensure the U.S. retains its dominance in such key scientific fields as biotechnology, nanotechnology, materials science, and supercomputing well into the next century. Leadership in these areas will benefit our health, our environment, our economy, and our national security. And through critical new investments in biofuels research and basic energy science, the DOE Office of Science will continue to play a vital role in developing the knowledge and the technologies essential to ensuring the nation's future energy security.

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. 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. Under the President's budget, 21,500 researchers would have access to these DOE facilities. Nearly half of those users will be university faculty and students – many whose research is being supported by other federal agencies – and a significant number will be from U.S. industry.

For these many reasons, we urge you to retain the House-approved funding level of \$4.5 billion for the DOE Office of Science in the final FY08 appropriations bill. Furthermore, we urge you to focus this funding on mission-related activities, facilities, and DOE requested activities, and to avoid using core DOE research 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,

Judy Pregert Ellen Stauscher Rush Holt

Steve Cohen

Heather Hills

Jim M. Demmitt

Keith Ellis

Janis Berman

Lair Cappel

1-0

Alce Hestey

Jie Snyder

Linda Lee

Ron Kind

Jasminaire

Neil Abernethy

Jane Laelsack

Susan A. Davis

Bob Abbott

Erin Owen

Miss Van Holler

Michael Wood

David Ljankic

Betty Sutter

Michael H. Michael

Dennis Moore

Kim Davis

Joe Loan

Patrick J. Kennedy

John J. Sant

Joe Courtney

John J. Sant

Hyatt Douglas

Tim Ryan

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Joe Latta

Carolyn McCarthy

Vernon J. Ehlers

Bob Keene

Danny K. Davis

Barry Runk

George Miller

Ronald M. Faye

Frederic A. Schwarz

John Dingell

[Signature]

Tom Lantz

Bobby L. Rush

Bob Finner

Maureen Rindley

Dale Wray

Tony Baldoni

Rubin Henjosa

John Schick ^{II-19}

Jerold Radler

Ron Paul

Albert R. Wynn

Art Lee

John Lewis

Bice Odakunt

Jill Ouster

Earl Blumenauer

Rosa L. DeLauro

Howard R. Berman

John F. Turner

Gene Pinn

Edward J. Markey

Pat Gay

Bobby Bell

Steve Kagen no

Thomas R. Snowed

Phil. Cap

Jim O

Anna M. L. T.

Jeff Fortaker

Bud Smith

Cathy McNamee Rodger

Carol Shea-Power

Joe Donnelly

John V. Gutierrez

Alvin H. Panto

Alvin de Vito

Sheila Jack Lee

Charles W. Dent

Michael T. McLeod

Phil Hare

Stuart Ramsey

Jacqueline G. Hall

Melissa L. Bean

Jan Klaty

Zach Wamp

Doris O. Matsui

John G. Manning

Ron Klein

Jack Cooper

Judy Goshes

Charles A. Zenger

Jan McRorum

John P. Lahn

Ed Perlmutter

Mike De

Chang Sheng

Tom Allen

Tom J. Walsh

Nancy Bayole

John

Alber

Coralyn B. Melaney

Harry E. Mitchell

Ti Holden

Jon Ann

Myra H. Klänig

Eddie Dennis Johnson

Rick Larson

Jack

Stephanie Hecoth Sandlin

Erin L. Enger

Jill Saxton

Bill Pasorell Jr

Norm Dicks

Page 2
Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)

Judy Biggert (R-IL)
Steve Cohen (D-TN)

Rush Holt (D-NJ)
Heather Wilson (R-NM)

Page 3

Jim McDermott (D-WA)
Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
Tim Johnson (R-IL)
Vic Snyder (D-AR)
Ron Kind (D-WI)
Neil Abercrombie (D-OH)
Susan A. Davis (D-CA)
Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
Michael Honda (D-CA)
Betty Sutton (D-OH)

Keith Ellison (D-MN)
Lois Capps (D-CA)
Doc Hastings (R-WA)
Sander Levin (D-MI)
Jason Altmire (D-PA)
Dave Loebsack (D-IA)
Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)
Michael Michaud (D-ME)

Page 4

Dennis Moore (D-KS)
Peter Roskam (R-IL)
Allyson Schwartz (D-PA)
Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
Tim Bishop (D-NY)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI)
Danny K. Davis (D-IL)
George Miller (D-CA)
Michael A. McNulty (D-NY)

Lincoln Davis (D-TN)
Patrick J. Kennedy (D-RI)
Joe Courtney (D-CT)
Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D-NY)
Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
Dale Kildee (D-MI)
Barney Frank (D-MA)
Donald M. Payne (D-NJ)
John Dingell (D-MI)

Page 5

David Wu (D-OR)
Bobby L. Rush (D-IL)
Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
John Shimkus (R-IL)
Ron Paul (R-TX)
Jay Inslee (D-WA)
Bill Delahunt (D-MA)
Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Howard L. Berman (D-CA)

Tom Lantos (D-CA)
Bob Filner (D-CA)
Darlene Hooley (D-OR)
Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX)
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
Albert R. Wynn (D-MD)
John Lewis (D-GA)
Jim Oberstar (D-MN)
Rosa L. DeLauro (D-CT)
John F. Tierney (D-MA)

Page 6

David Price (D-NC)
Michael Burgess (R-TX)
Steve Kagen (D-WI)
Michael E. Capuano (D-MA)
Donna M. Christensen (D-VI)
Brad Miller (D-NC)
Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
Luis V. Gutierrez (D-IL)
Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)
Charles W. Dent (R-PA)

Edward Markey (D-MA)
Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Leonard Boswell (D-IA)
Tim Mahoney (D-FL)
Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE)
Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA)
Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Michael T. McCaul (R-TX)

Page 7

Phil Hare (D-IL)
Gabrielle Giffords (D-NY)
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Joe Baca (D-CA)
Doris O. Matsui (D-CA)
Ron Klein (D-FL)
J. Randy Forbes (R-VA)
Jim McGovern (D-MA)
Ed Perlmutter (D-CO)
Christopher Shays (R-CT)

Nick Lampson (D-TX)
Melissa Bean (D-IL)
Zach Wamp (R-TN)
John J. Duncan Jr. (R-TN)
Jon C. Porter (R-NV)
Jerry McNerney (D-CA)
Charles A. Gonzalez (D-TX)
John P. Sarbanes (D-MD)
Mike Doyle (D-PA)
Tom Allen (D-ME)

Page 8

Tim J. Walz (D-MN)
Nancy Boyda (D-KS)
Paul Hodes (D-NH)
Al Green (D-TX)
Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY)
Harry E. Mitchell (D-AZ)
Tim Holden (D-PA)
Jane Harman (D-CA)
Nydia Velazquez (D-NY)

Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Rick Larsen (D-WA)
Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin (D-SD)
Eliot L. Engel (D-NY)
Jim Saxton (R-NJ)
Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ)
Norm Dicks (D-WA)

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader
The Honorable David Obey, Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations