

# ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

DRAFT as of 10/08/10

October \_\_, 2010

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

As you continue your work on the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills, the undersigned organizations of the Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) write to express concerns about the funding level provided for the DOE Office of Science in the current bill as approved by the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and urge the committee to provide increased funding for the vital basic research it supports.

Congress committed in 2007 to increase funding for the DOE Office of Science when it enacted the bipartisan America COMPETES Act. In adopting this measure, which was consistent with the innovation agendas of both political parties as well as the recommendations of the National Academies report *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, Congress affirmed the importance of basic research to economic growth and energy security. However, the fiscal year 2011 bill approved by the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee deviates from the COMPETES commitment, providing \$4.900 billion for the DOE Office of Science, \$4 million below the fiscal year 2010 funding level and \$221 million below the Administration request. Without the requested funding, the DOE Office of Science will not be able to support more graduate fellowships, additional Energy Frontier Research Centers, or an Energy Innovation Hub focused on overcoming the challenges of energy storage, and it will be unable to sustain its core research programs and user facilities at fiscal year 2010 levels.

As the U.S. economy continues to struggle and international competition for quality jobs grows, Congress should not back away from the commitment it made in America COMPETES. Instead, we need to invest in the kind of basic research so critical to improving our energy security and national competitiveness, meeting our environmental challenges, and producing new jobs and innovative technological breakthroughs that will fuel our economy well into the future. We need to invest in basic research at universities and national laboratories, the education and training of thousands of future scientists and engineers, and the operation of one-of-a-kind scientific facilities utilized by over 25,000 scientists annually from industry, academia, and government. In short, we need to invest in the DOE Office of Science, the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences, and a unique and critical component of the federal research enterprise.

We recognize and appreciate the tremendous fiscal constraints the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee faced in crafting its bill in light of its 302(b) allocation. As the process moves forward, however, we would ask that you work with the subcommittee chair and ranking member and the House leadership to find a way to provide the increased funding requested for DOE science programs.

Sincerely,

(LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS)

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable John Boehner  
The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen

*The Energy Sciences Coalition (ESC) is a broad based coalition of organizations representing scientists, engineers and mathematicians in universities, industry and national laboratories who are committed to supporting and advancing the scientific research programs of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and in particular, the DOE Office of Science.*