



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

July 7, 2008

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On behalf of the half million U.S. engineers and allied technical professionals represented by the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES) and its member societies, we thank you for your support of science and engineering research in H.R. 2642, the defense supplemental appropriations bill. This legislation, which was signed into law by President Bush last week, contains increases that are critically needed in order to continue to advance and grow research programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

In addition, last year Congress overwhelmingly passed, and the President signed, the America COMPETES Act, a bipartisan measure that authorized significant funding increases for research and education at the NSF, the DOE Office of Science, and NIST. We were grateful and believed the overwhelming bipartisan support for this landmark legislation demonstrated that our nation's leaders understood the vital role that technology and science play in maintaining U.S. leadership in an increasingly competitive global economy.

However, last-minute negotiations between Congress and the White House over the final FY 2008 omnibus appropriations bill left funding for these three agencies essentially flat, with little or no new money to expand important research and education programs. In fact, in the case of the DOE Office of Science, some programs are now facing drastic cuts, which are already prompting significant layoffs of scientific and technical personnel at labs and universities around the country.

America's economic well-being, standard of living and national security are all dependent on our ability to remain a world leader in technology in the face of ever stronger global competition. While we applaud Congress for including this crucial science and engineering funding in the supplemental appropriations bill, we encourage Congress to reconcile a budget for FY 2009 that is reflective of the urgency outlined in H.R. 2642 and appropriates sufficient funding for the agencies that will lead our nation in the 21st century and beyond.

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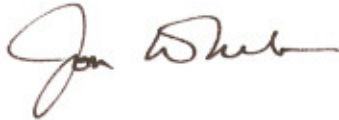
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If we can provide any additional information or be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Koffel, Executive Director of AAES at 202-296-2237 or wkoffel@aaes.org.

Sincerely,



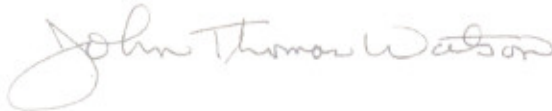
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