

# ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

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February 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Boehner, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

The undersigned members of the Energy Sciences Coalition thank you for investing in the basic science research, facilities, and equipment of the Department of Energy Office of Science as a part of the economic recovery package. Such an investment will create construction, manufacturing, and high-skilled jobs in the short-term, as well as provide a solid foundation for improving our energy security, growing our economy, and creating the required talent base, new technologies and green jobs that will keep America competitive well into the future. As the House and Senate begin negotiations on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), we write to encourage you to provide the highest level of funding possible for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science in any final bill.

If we are to meet the objectives established by President Obama to expand our use of renewable energy, end our addiction to foreign oil, halt or reverse global climate change, and create new jobs, we must fundamentally change the way we produce, distribute, store, and use energy. Such fundamental change requires the deployment of new energy technologies. The successful development of such technologies depends entirely upon scientific breakthroughs that result from a federal investment in basic science research, facilities, and equipment at American universities and national laboratories. Moreover, it will require that we have in place the infrastructure to train and educate a cadre of new scientists, engineers and technically skilled personnel in energy-related fields.

The DOE Office of Science is the primary supporter of basic energy research and the facilities, training and equipment needed to support this research. However, in constant dollars, its budget has been flat for well over a decade, diminishing its research capacity by more than 25 percent. Much of the physical plant at the national laboratories is over forty years old, resulting in a \$2 billion backlog of infrastructure projects across the national laboratory complex. Many of the unique research facilities maintained by the national laboratories and used by university, industrial, and government researchers are not operated at their maximum capacity, forcing scientists to conduct their research at overseas facilities with similar capabilities. And in recent years, solicitations for new energy research proposals from universities have been cancelled and grant awards never made, discouraging university faculty and students interested in working to find solutions to our most pressing energy challenges.

We appreciate the funding included in the Senate recovery package for the DOE Office of Science, which would accelerate a number of science laboratory infrastructure projects and reduce the backlog of infrastructure needs at the national laboratories. However, the additional funding in the House bill would go further toward helping build a green economy by immediately creating new jobs in energy

*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.*

research, upgrading scientific infrastructure at *both* universities and national laboratories, and training a new generation of scientists and engineers with the skills required to address our energy challenges. In this way, the economic recovery bill will transform how we produce, distribute, store, and use energy, helping achieve the goals set by Congress and the new Administration and putting the nation on a path toward energy independence.

By addressing infrastructure and equipment needs at national laboratories and universities, this funding will give the economy a boost in the near-term by creating good-paying, American jobs in construction, manufacturing, and research. And by investing in the nation's scientific and research enterprise – both human and physical capital – we increase our capacity to innovate, reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, enhance our competitive edge in the global economy, and thus create the jobs of the future.

In total, the stimulus funding provided for DOE science in the House bill is estimated by the Department to create or retain approximately 50,000 jobs through research and construction of laboratory facilities. We need only look to the past for evidence that this approach works; according to economists, over half of the growth in the Gross Domestic Product over the last fifty years is attributable to past investments in science and technology.

For these reasons, we urge you to provide funding in the final version of the ARRA that is comparable to that included in the House stimulus bill for the DOE Office of Science. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Mathematical Society  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Society for Engineering Education  
Association of American Universities  
Battelle  
Binghamton University  
Biophysical Society  
Computing Research Association  
Council of Energy Research and Education  
Leaders  
Crop Science Society of America  
Fusion Power Associates  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
IEEE-USA  
Krell Institute  
Materials Research Society

NASULGC, A Public University Association  
North Carolina State University  
Optical Society of America  
Princeton University  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Soil Science Society of America  
Southeastern Universities Research  
Association  
Stanford University  
Tech-X Corporation  
University of Michigan  
University of Southern California  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Vanderbilt University

cc: The Honorable David Obey, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Peter Visclosky, Chairman, House Energy and Water Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member, House Energy and Water  
Development Appropriations Subcommittee  
The Honorable Bart Gordon, Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology  
The Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Ranking Member, House Committee on Science and  
Technology  
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Senator Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Senator Byron L. Dorgan, Chairman, Senate Energy and Water Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Robert F. Bennett, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Water Development  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
Senator Jeff Bingaman, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee