May 6, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

To Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:

As members of the Energy Sciences Coalition and the Task Force on American Innovation, we write today to urge you to make robust and sustained funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science a priority in the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

We recognize the difficult challenges and choices you face as you work to reduce the federal budget deficit, get the economy growing again, and create jobs for the American people. However, to achieve these goals, Congress must make strategic decisions and set priorities when it comes to federal funding.

We believe that the scientific research, unique world-class user facilities, and teams of skilled scientists and engineers funded by the Department of Energy Office of Science at universities and national laboratories are critical to long-term economic growth and job creation. Economic experts have asserted as much, crediting past investments in science and technology for up to half the growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the 50 years following the end of World War II. Yet today, other nations such as China, India, and Europe are increasingly investing in their scientific infrastructure and are challenging U.S. leadership in areas such as supercomputing and energy research with the goal of capitalizing on the many technological advances and economic benefits that result from scientific research.

That is why we urge you to support the request of Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) to the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee to make strong and sustained funding for the DOE Office of Science a priority in fiscal year 2012. They articulate how important the DOE Office of Science is to American industry and universities, how it is unique from and complementary to the research efforts of other federal research agencies, how it serves to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers, and how research funded by the DOE Office of Science has made our nation more secure, healthy, competitive, and prosperous.

In light of current budget constraints, and with an eye toward creating jobs and strengthening the economy, we urge you to sign the Biggert-Holt letter and support making funding for the DOE Office of Science a priority in fiscal year 2012.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America (ASTRA)
American Chemical Society

American Institute of Physics
American Mathematical Society
American Physical Society
American Society of Agronomy
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Plant Biologists
Americans for Energy Leadership
Arizona State University
ASME
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Battelle
Biophysical Society
Business Roundtable
California Institute of Technology
Cornell University
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders
Council of Graduate Schools
Cray Inc.
Crop Science Society of America
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)
Florida State University
General Atomics Corporation
Geological Society of America
Harvard University
Iowa State University
Jefferson Science Associates, LLC
Krell Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Materials Research Society
Michigan State University
NC State University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Ohio State University
Princeton University
Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International
Semiconductor Research Corporation
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)
Semiconductor Industry Association
Soil Science Society of America
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Southeastern Universities Research Association
SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics
Stanford University
Stony Brook University, State University of New York
Tech-X
University at Buffalo
University of California System
University of California Berkeley
University of California Davis
University of California Irvine
UCLA
University of California Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
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University of Tennessee
University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis