

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2008

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask for your support for at least the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 request of \$ 4.722 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science by signing the attached letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

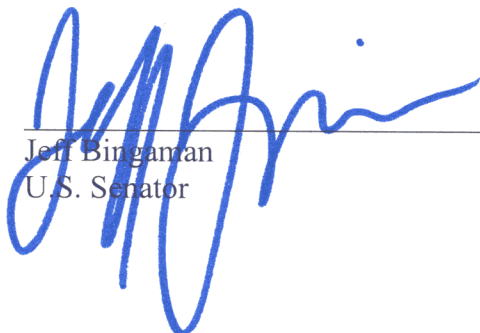
There has been strong bipartisan support for increasing funding for the Office of Science. In April 2006, 70 senators signed a letter in support of the President's funding request for Fiscal Year 2007. Again in March 2007, 64 senators signed a similar letter in support of the President's Fiscal Year 2008 funding request.

The Office of Science is authorized to receive \$5.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2009 under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58). In approving the America COMPETES Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-69), Congress recognized that investing in basic scientific research is critical to preserving America's brainpower advantage so that we can compete in the global economy and keep our good jobs from going overseas. The America COMPETES Act authorizes the doubling of the Office of Science's budget over a seven-year period, and the President's request is consistent with this important bipartisan policy goal.


The Office of Science is the largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences, providing over 40 percent of such funding, and is the main builder and operator of large-scale scientific facilities and instruments that are increasingly important to our scientific leadership. It is widely recognized by economists that investments in science and innovation are key to growing high-quality, good-paying jobs and a growing economy. In addition, the Office of Science is the main federal sponsor of basic research aimed at achieving the scientific breakthroughs necessary to meet our nation's growing needs for clean, abundant energy.

We'd be glad to furnish additional information, or your office may wish to be in touch with Jonathan Epstein with Senator Bingaman at 224-5521 or jonathan_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov, or Jack Wells with Senator Alexander at 224-4944 or jack_wells@alexander.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator



Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senator