

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 27, 2007

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to ask for your support for the Administration's request of \$4.4 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science Fiscal Year 2008.

There has been strong bipartisan support for past efforts to increase funding for the Office of Science. Last year, 70 senators signed a letter in support of the President's funding request for Fiscal Year 2007. Last month, nearly half the Senate signed a similar letter on short notice regarding funding in the recently-passed Joint Resolution for the remainder of the current fiscal year.


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.

If you have any questions or would like to sign the attached letter, please contact Jonathan Epstein with Senator Bingaman's Office at 224-5521 or jonathan_epstein@bingaman.senate.gov, or Jack Wells with Senator Alexander's Office at 224-4944 or jack_wells@help.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator



Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 27, 2007

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
Chairman
Energy and Water Development
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete Domenici
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development
Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Domenici:

We are writing to express our support for upholding the President's Fiscal Year 2008 request of \$4.4 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science.

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. Earlier this year, nearly half the Senate signed a similar letter on short notice regarding funding in the Joint Resolution for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

The President's requested funding for the Office of Science is justified as our nation's ability to sustain a growing economy and create good jobs at home increasingly depends upon our achievements in science and technology. Competition in the global marketplace is increasingly fierce, and the Office of Science is at the forefront of our efforts to keep America's edge and avoid being overtaken by nations like China and India. Strengthening our investment in the Office of Science is the right thing to do to meet our long-term challenges for abundant energy, clean air and water, and a vibrant economy.

The Office is supporting discoveries in essential new fields – biotechnology, nanotechnology, and supercomputing – that will revolutionize the 21st Century economy. With past performance as our guide, we can look forward to even more breakthroughs, such as: stronger, more functional materials; improved understanding of climate change; advances in nuclear medicine to treat diseases, better sensors for homeland security and our troops in the field; and a more diverse portfolio of clean, abundant energy sources.

In addition, through its many world class user facilities and programs, the Office of Science plays an indispensable role in educating, training, and sustaining the nation's scientific workforce. Thousands of university researchers – professors, "post-docs", and undergraduate students – also rely, each year, on support from the Office. Roughly half of the researchers at Office of Science-run facilities come from universities, and about a third of Office of Science research funds go to institutions of higher learning.

We are acutely aware of the tight constraints on the available budgetary resources, and commend you and the subcommittee for making the Office of Science a funding priority. We urge your continued support for the Office of Science so that we can maintain this critical investment in our nation's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'L. Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

Lamar Alexander
