FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT ON SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR BASIC ENERGY RESEARCH AND ARPA-E

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities, on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s approval of the FY14 Energy and Water appropriations bill.

On behalf of our 60 leading public and private U.S. research universities, I want to commend Senate appropriators for approving an FY14 Energy and Water spending bill that contains significant funding increases for the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Science and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E).

We believe these investments are vital to the nation’s ability to maintain its global scientific leadership, to develop diverse and sustainable sources of energy, and to improve health and environmental quality. These, in turn, are fundamental to long-term economic growth, job creation, quality of life, and global competitiveness. We cannot let these and other similar investments in research, education, and infrastructure be squeezed out by the arbitrary sequestration that grows more constricting the longer it is kept in place.

We were disappointed that the House has chosen to embrace the sequester in FY14 and to place nearly the entire burden of funding cutbacks on domestic discretionary programs. While the House Energy and Water bill would slightly increase funding for the DOE Office of Science from its low, post-sequester FY13 level, it also would slash ARPA-E by 81 percent. Such extraordinary cuts in national investments are a recipe for national decline — not the kind of decline that occurs suddenly, but one that strikes gradually over months and years.

We call on both parties in Congress to come together with the President of the United States to forge a long-term agreement that addresses our investment deficit as well as our long-term budget deficits.

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The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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