SCIENCE-BUSINESS COALITION SUPPORTS DOE OFFICE OF SCIENCE FUNDING IN ENERGY AND WATER BILL

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation issued the following statement today on House passage of the FY05 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, which contains a significant increase in funding for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science. The bill provides an additional $100 million over the FY04 funding level. The Administration had proposed a $68 million cut.

“The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation strongly supports greater investment in the DOE Office of Science and commends the House for providing needed resources in the FY05 Energy and Water Development bill. This new funding will help the Office of Science build and effectively operate the world’s finest network of scientific facilities and instruments, including DOE’s national laboratories. Such investment is essential for U.S. researchers to extend the frontiers of science. The legislation also enables the Office to pursue scientific opportunities that improve people’s lives in such diverse areas as health, energy, and the environment. We are encouraged by the fact that 55 Senators have already endorsed a 10% increase in the Office of Science budget. We urge the Senate to match or exceed the DOE science funding increases provided by the House.”

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation is a broad-based group composed of industry, higher education, and scientific societies, concerned about federal investment in scientific research and training in the physical sciences and engineering. Additional information can be found at http://www.aau.edu/research/RDEvent42004.pdf.