INNOVATION TASK FORCE APPLAUDS INCREASED INVESTMENT IN DOE OFFICE OF SCIENCE

Following is a statement by the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation on House passage of H.R. 2419, the Energy and Water appropriations act for FY2006, which provides a $66 million (1.8 percent) increase for the Office of Science over FY2005, and $203 million more than the Administration, which had proposed a $137 million (3.8 percent) reduction.

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation applauds the increased investment in the Department of Energy's Office of Science approved by the House today.

The Office of Science not only is the primary source of federal investment in the physical sciences but also builds and maintains major facilities used by some 19,000 scientists every year for groundbreaking research in energy, computing, biological and environmental sciences, and other fields. This increase would make it possible for the office to advance its plans for major new scientific facilities, operate existing facilities, and sustain critical research programs at our nation's universities.

Today's House action reverses a deep cut in spending proposed by the Administration, providing more than $200 million more than the Administration budget. The increase will fund research critical to meeting our nation's future energy needs and to maintaining our global leadership in science and innovation.

Members of the House, and specifically the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, led by Chairman David Hobson (R-OH) and Ranking Member Peter Visclosky (D-IN), are to be commended for their action. Sixth-eight Senators recently signed a letter requesting increased funding for the Office of Science. Members of this Task Force hope, therefore, that the Senate will match or exceed the support provided by the House when it considers this bill.

###

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, a coalition of high-tech companies, business organizations, scientific societies, and higher education associations, was founded in 2004 to advocate greater federal investments for basic research in the physical sciences and engineering. The group focuses specifically on the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the Department of Defense research budget, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology labs at the Department of Commerce.