AAU STATEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF JOHN HOLDREN
AS SCIENCE ADVISOR

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on President-elect Obama’s appointment of John Holdren as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

On behalf of sixty of the nation’s leading research universities, I congratulate President-elect Obama on his choice of John Holdren as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. He has the experience, skills, and broad knowledge of science and technology to help fulfill the President-elect’s commitment to science, research, and innovation.

In addition, I want to commend President-elect Obama’s decision to give Dr. Holdren the senior rank of Assistant to the President. It reflects an understanding of the critical role that science and technology must play in addressing the serious challenges facing our country.

One of those challenges is energy security. Given his expertise in the field of energy, Dr. Holdren will be in excellent position to work with Steven Chu at the Department of Energy to formulate a comprehensive national energy policy and to implement a research and development strategy that will ensure our nation’s future energy security.

Finally, I want to thank President-elect Obama for making this appointment early enough to have the greatest impact on personnel and policy. This early appointment will enable Dr. Holdren not only to coordinate Administration policy initiatives from the beginning but also to help ensure that those selected for Executive Branch positions involved in shaping science policies have the experience and expertise to serve the nation well.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.