



ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC AND
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES



September 11, 2009

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

The Honorable Robert F. Bennett
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Bennett,

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the Association of American Universities (AAU), whose combined memberships include most of the major public and private research universities in the United States, wish to thank you for your continuing support of the Department of Energy (DOE) research and science and engineering workforce training programs.

As you finalize the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, we would like to specifically draw your attention to three important priorities for universities and their scientific and education efforts:

- 1) continued strong funding support for the DOE Office of Science and its research programs;
- 2) an enhanced commitment to energy research through support for the newly proposed Energy Innovation Hubs and the related Hubs topic areas; and
- 3) support for new energy education efforts at the DOE, such as the new Re-gaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge (RE-ENERGYSE), that will support and train new scientists and engineers and help to meet our nation's energy challenges

Each of these priorities aligns with our nation's goal to develop cleaner, cheaper, and efficient sources of energy. For your consideration, outlined below are our specific requests for FY 2010 funding levels for several DOE research and education programs.

Department of Energy Office of Science

AAU and APLU were very pleased to see that the House went above the Administration's request and provided \$4.943 billion to the Office of Science. While this level does not reach the level of \$5.8 billion authorized for FY 2010 Office of Science budget from the America COMPETES Act (P.L. 110-69), we strongly recommend that the conference bill provide at a minimum the House-recommended level.

Energy Innovation Hubs

We believe the Administration's proposed Energy Innovation Hubs program is important because it will greatly increase the chance that a critical amount of effort will be directed towards removing several of the largest roadblocks slowing the development of new energy technologies. In accordance with the Senate bill, we recommend that the conference support funding for at least three of the eight proposed Energy Innovation Hubs.

We further encourage Congress to support funding for hubs in the additional topic areas outlined by the Administration in FY 2011 and beyond. These topics have generated broad-based interest and support within the university community.

“Re-gaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge” (RE-ENERGYSE)

The Administration’s proposed RE-ENERGYSE program has the potential to train, educate, and inspire America’s future energy workforce of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs. RE-ENERGYSE, and similar programs at the DOE, are needed to fulfill both its energy and science missions, especially as the DOE prepares for record levels of retirements by baby boomer scientists and engineers. The House provides \$7.5 million out of the Administration’s \$115 million request for the Department to conduct a study and assess the current and future needs for education and workforce development and other education programs. We recommend that the conference bill provide the House-recommended \$7.5 million and strongly encourage that a substantial majority of that funding be used as a down payment for multidisciplinary energy-specific education pilot programs for professional science masters and expanded graduate fellowships in a variety of energy fields.

We thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. We look forward to working with you through the remainder of the appropriations process to create a final version of that legislation that meets as many of our nation’s energy related needs as possible.

Sincerely,



Peter McPherson
President
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities



Robert M. Berdahl
President
Association of American Universities

cc: Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye,
Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Thad Cochran,
Members of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development