

SUPPORT SCIENCE IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL: GRASSROOTS CALL-IN CAMPAIGN

What:

A grassroots effort to encourage additional funding for science in the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) supplemental appropriations bill that will soon be sent forward by the President and considered by the Congress.

When:

To have the maximum impact, individuals (e.g. members of key scientific societies, business and university leaders, students and others in the scientific and research community) are encouraged to call their U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators and the White House on: **Tuesday, April 8th; Wednesday, April 9th; or Thursday, April 10th.**

Specific Request:

Urge the President and your own Congressperson and Senators to support the inclusion of additional funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in the FY08 supplemental appropriations bill. The amount added should equal the amount authorized in the America COMPETES Act.

Whom do I contact to make this request?

There are four important contacts you should make:

1. your Representative in the U.S. House;
- 2 & 3. your two U.S. Senators; and
4. the White House at 202-456-1111.

How do I find out the names and phone numbers of my Representative and Senators?

In order to verify the name of your local Representative and which Senators represent your state, enter your home zip code in the Project Vote Smart Web page (<http://www.votesmart.org/>). The Web site will give you their names and telephone numbers for their district/state and Washington, D.C. offices. Calls can be made to either their Washington or district/state offices.

To whom should I ask to speak?

Discuss your concerns with the person who answers the phone. You may want to ask to speak with the congressional staff person that deals with science and technology or appropriations matters. For the White House, register your concerns with the person who answers the phone.

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Below is a suggested script outlining the general message callers should convey when making calls to their own U.S. Representatives and Senators and to the White House regarding the importance of including additional funding for science in the FY08 supplemental appropriations bill.

SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT:

Hello, my name is _____, and I live in (*City, State*).

I am calling today to voice my support for including additional funding for scientific research and science education in the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008 that Congress and the President will soon be considering (*NOTE: this is the most important point to convey if you can only make a short comment*).

The failure to appropriate the funds called for last year in the America COMPETES Act, and endorsed by both the President and Congress, is now having significant ramifications for U.S. laboratories, universities and research centers (*see attached background sheet for details on impacts*).

As a constituent (*change to 'as a voter' when calling the White House*), I ask (*Congressperson or Senator's name or the President*) to urge Congressional and Administration leaders to support adding funds for science in the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008.

This action is consistent with both the President and Congress' promises to support science funding. It would prevent the permanent loss of critical scientific jobs and national scientific and technological capabilities and it will help keep America competitive. The additional funding also would send a clear signal to students studying in these fields that both Congress and the President do, in fact, assign a high priority to science and engineering.

It is not too late to fix this funding problem, so I ask that Congress/the President restore funding for critical science programs by including it in the upcoming supplemental funding bill.

Thank you very much.

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BACKGROUND

Last year Congress overwhelmingly passed and the President signed the America COMPETES Act, which authorized significant funding increases for the NSF, the DOE Office of Science, and NIST. These agencies were singled out because of their importance to science education and research and to the nation's economic competitiveness. However, last-minute negotiations between Congress and the White House over the final FY08 omnibus appropriations bill left funding for these three agencies essentially flat, after accounting for inflation, with no new money to expand their research and education programs and in the case of the DOE Office of Science, some programs were drastically cuts resulting in significant layoffs of scientific and technical personnel at labs and universities around the country.

Although funds are tight, there is still time for Congress and the President to reverse this situation by including additional funding for science in the FY08 supplemental appropriations bill in accordance with the funding levels called for by the America COMPETES Act and the Presidents own ACI.

What is a Supplemental Appropriations Bill?

Supplemental appropriations bills are funding vehicles used by Congress and the President to cover unanticipated expenses—for special or emergency needs—that arise after the appropriations for a given fiscal year have been approved. The primary purpose of the FY08 supplemental appropriations bill that Congress will consider in April is to cover costs of the Iraq war. However, the measure also provides the opportunity for Congress to bolster funding for certain domestic priorities, such as science education and research.

Unless additional funding for science is included FY08 supplemental, we will see the following impacts at key research agencies:

AT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

- ***Further drops in the funding rate of grant proposals*** to university researchers. Success rates at NSF in recent years have experienced significant declines. The shortfall in the FY08 omnibus bill means that 1000 fewer new research grants will be awarded in FY08 (15 percent below the request).
- ***Planned NSF research programs and solicitations will be put on hold.*** NSF will be forced to delay planned program expansions and to defer program solicitations in such areas as: computer science education; cyberinfrastructure; climate change; and the science of science and innovation policy. Also delayed is a new Discovery Corps Fellowship program and expansion of undergraduate research centers.
- ***A cut of 230 graduate fellowships.*** These fellowships provide students with three years of support for research-focused master's and PhD degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics.
- ***Cuts to the Faculty Early Career Awards,*** a program supporting early career development of young professors.
- ***Cuts to the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU),*** a program that supports active research participation by undergraduates.

AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S OFFICE OF SCIENCE

- ***Lost Expertise*** – Layoffs of more than 500 scientific and technical staff at the national laboratories, a permanent loss of invaluable expertise. Many more jobs will be lost at universities across the country as graduate students, postdocs, researchers, and technicians lose their funding.

- ***ITER/Fusion***– By zeroing out funding in the FY08 omnibus bill for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), the U.S. has defaulted on its commitments to this international science project and jeopardized its ability to access to the fruits of this effort aimed at creating a limitless source of energy.

- ***High Energy Physics*** – The FY08 omnibus appropriations bill halts American work on next-generation high energy physics programs and forces layoffs of hundreds of scientists and furloughs of many others.

- ***Basic Energy Sciences*** – Operations at the light and neutron source facilities will also likely be reduced by as much as 10 percent; nearly 700 proposals responding to a solicitation for energy research have been declined.

- ***Scientific Workforce*** – DOE will be unable to offer 300 new pre-service teacher training and undergraduate internship opportunities at the national laboratories.

AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

- ***NIST Science Initiatives*** – The NIST laboratories will be unable to fund initiatives in such areas as quantum science, climate change, cybersecurity, and nanotechnology.