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January 19, 200

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

VIA FAX: 202-228-0400

Dear Senator Durbin:

We ask you as a Member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation to aid our nation's effort to maintain global competitiveness in science and innovation by ensuring that any Year-Long FY 2007 Continuing Resolution preserves the increased funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science that received bipartisan support throughout the appropriations process for FY 2007.

Failure to include these increases in the Continuing Resolution would have a very negative impact on Illinois's national laboratories and universities. The consequences for the two Illinois DOE national laboratories, the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory, would be dire. The proposed FY 2007 Continuing Resolution holding funding at FY 2006 levels would likely force these world-class facilities to furlough or lay off employees and reduce or shut down operations of user facilities, which would adversely affect thousands of industrial and academic users. Additionally, funding to support many Illinois university projects would also be impacted.

The national competitiveness of the United States in a global economy is among the nation's most important policy concerns. Increases in the DOE Office of Science budget are key to strengthening scientific research and innovation across the country. We urge you to ensure that to the maximum extent possible the Year-Long Continuing Resolution either provides the increases already embraced in bipartisan mode by House and Senate appropriators or at least provides the Secretary of the Department of Energy with the flexibility to reprogram funds within the Department to assure adequate support for scientific research.

Please do not hesitate to call on us.

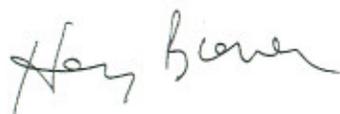
Sincerely yours,



Robert Zimmer  
President  
University of Chicago



John G. Peters  
President  
Northern Illinois University



Henry S. Bienen  
President  
Northwestern University



B. Joseph White  
President  
University of Illinois



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