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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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December 20, 2007

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

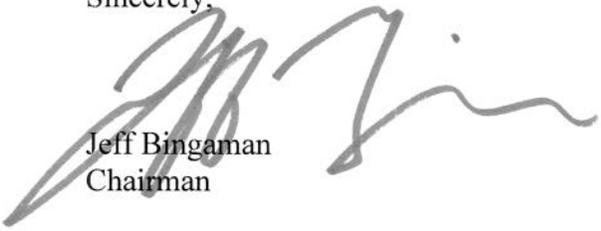
Congress has passed, and the President is expected to sign, H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008. The Act will provide funding for the remainder of the fiscal year for the Department of Energy (DOE), but I am concerned about the potential impacts of the Act on DOE's research and development (R&D) missions.

I would appreciate receiving an analysis by DOE of the effect of the funding levels contained in the Act on DOE's energy and fundamental science R&D programs. The analysis should address both the overall funding of major DOE programs and the impact on Departmental scientific facilities and National Laboratories. To the extent that Congress has specifically directed funding of activities in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, I would like to understand how that Congressional direction will affect DOE R&D activities.

Congress may consider supplemental appropriations bills next year. The timing and content of those bills are uncertain at this point. It would be worthwhile, though, to be able to be in a position to understand the status of the R&D programs that underlie our future energy security and our ability to improve our scientific and technological competitiveness, when the Senate reconvenes for its Second Session on January 22. I realize that the DOE will be very busy between now and then on finalizing the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2009, but any analysis of the issues presented by the FY 2008 appropriations levels would be both helpful and welcome.

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of, this request. Please direct any specific questions you may have to either Dr. Robert M. Simon or Dr. Jonathan Epstein of the Committee's staff.

Sincerely,

  
Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman