

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to express our strong support for the fusion energy research programs carried out within the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (OFES). Your subcommittee has long been a champion of fusion energy research and we request that you protect U.S. capabilities in this area by including adequate funding for both the domestic fusion program and the international ITER fusion project in FY 2014.

As you know, fusion power is a safe, clean, and sustainable energy source that can provide the United States with energy independence and a nearly limitless energy supply in a time-scale that matters and at a cost that we can afford. The OFES is working to make this energy source a reality by funding a wide variety of fusion laboratories and research programs throughout the United States, while also contributing to ITER, the most ambitious fusion facility ever built. Both of these investments are vital to achieve the goals of the U.S. fusion program and will provide critical information that will help usher in the commercialization of fusion energy. The domestic program is key to developing the scientific basis for fusion, establishing the foundation for the next steps in the U.S. fusion program, and providing scientific advances for ITER. The pursuit of this vital energy source, both domestically and through ITER, drives important areas of science and technology and has bred a first-rate fusion workforce in the United States. However, without substantial support for both the domestic fusion program and the ITER project, our workforce and capabilities will be compromised and the United States will cede further advantage to places such as China, South Korea, the European Union, and Japan, all of which are pursuing more aggressive fusion programs than our own.

We respectfully request that you include, at a minimum, the same level of funding for the domestic fusion program that was included in your committee's FY 2013 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, in addition to an adequate amount to ensure that the U.S. can meet its obligations to ITER. This will ensure that our university programs are not eroded, that our three major world-leading fusion experiments are kept operating and more fully utilized, and that important areas of fusion related science and technology move forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt

Bruce Braly

Michael H. Michael

Joe K

Allen J. Smith

Gene Lutz

Joseph Rowley

Jim M. Bennett

Jim Payne, Jr.

Leonard Lence

John F. Tunney

Phil Van Hollen

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