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**President Applauds “Critical First Step” for American Competitiveness Initiative**  
*ACI Request for DOE Office of Science Fully Funded in House Bill*

**Washington, DC** – In a statement today, President Bush praised House passage of the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations Act. Included in the bill passed by the House May 24, was full funding of the President’s request of \$4.1 billion to strengthen basic research at the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, a key component of President Bush’s American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI).

**Statement of the President:**

*“I applaud the House of Representatives for passing the Energy and Water appropriations bill. I am grateful for the House Leadership’s work on it. This bill marks a critical first step toward realizing my American Competitiveness Initiative, and it fully funds my request for the Energy Department’s Office of Science. I appreciate the leadership of Chairman Hobson and Chairman Lewis in working to keep our economy the most competitive in the world...I urge the Senate to join the House in supporting these important initiatives.”* [<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/05/20060525-2.html>]

**Statement of Dr. John H. Marburger III –Director, Office of Science & Technology Policy:**

*“As a result of Chairman Hobson championing this key component of the American Competitiveness Initiative, the House has fully funded the President’s request for the DOE Office of Science. Equally impressive and appreciated is Chairman Hobson’s strong, sure hand in guiding the ACI funding through the House with greatly reduced earmarking. I also commend the House Leadership’s support and discipline in this regard, and encourage the Senate to act in kind.”*

The *American Competitiveness Initiative* commits \$5.9 billion in FY 2007, and more than \$136 billion over 10 years, to increase investments in research and development (R&D), strengthen education, and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. Because federal investment in R&D has proven critical to keeping America’s economy strong by generating knowledge and tools upon which new technologies are developed, the centerpiece of the *American Competitiveness Initiative* is the President’s commitment to double over 10 years investment in key federal agencies that support basic research programs in the physical sciences – the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, and the core activities of the Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology.

**For more information on the ACI, visit [www.ostp.gov](http://www.ostp.gov)**

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