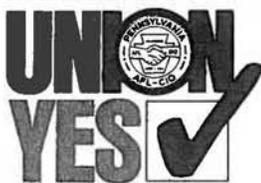


AMERICA WORKS BEST
WHEN WE SAY . . .



PENNSYLVANIA AFL-CIO

RICHARD W. BLOOMINGDALE
President

FRANK SNYDER
Secretary-Treasurer

February 3, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, coal is our nation's major energy source, and your own Energy Information Administration predicts that coal, together with natural gas and oil, will continue to provide over 75% of America's energy needs for at least the next 25 years.

Considering this fact, I urge you to provide robust funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and its National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) in your soon-to-be-released FY2013 budget. I believe that supporting these critical research programs is a matter of national security and economic necessity.

NETL has played a leading role in solving complex energy problems and has a proven record in addressing the many challenges and concerns regarding the use of fossil energy. The cutting edge research performed by NETL has provided substantial returns on investments and has made possible countless innovations in the Coal and Oil & Gas Programs.

To note some success, the laboratory continues to lead the nation's carbon capture and sequestration and utilization efforts. Additionally, NETL-led efforts in combustion and turbine research and development have led to substantial increases in power plant efficiencies and reductions in harmful power plant emissions. NETL has led and/or conducted research that has created technologies that are used in 75% of our nation's largest coal power plants.

In your most recent State of the Union Address, you recognized that, "The development of natural gas will create jobs and power trucks and factories that are cleaner and cheaper, proving that we don't have to choose between our environment and our economy. ***And by the way, it was public research dollars, over the course of thirty years, that helped develop the technologies to extract all this natural gas out of shale rock – reminding us that Government support is critical in helping***

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businesses get new energy ideas off the ground.” (Emphasis added). This research that you spoke of was led by NETL and its predecessor organizations.

Further, significant reductions in NETL funding could cause the immediate loss of thousands of jobs that would be felt throughout many regions and would harm our nation’s economy, at a time when we can least afford such losses. Coupled with the termination or crippling of these important research programs, the effect on fossil energy research and technology development would be felt for years. America’s economic climate and our nation’s success in these technologies and industries compel us to implore you to fully support the NETL programs.

Respectfully, I urge you to provide a robust funding level for DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy and NETL in your FY2013 budget submission, which will allow for critical fossil energy research and development. These efforts will help ensure that our nation becomes more self-sufficient in domestic energy and help the economy sustain existing jobs and create new ones.

Respectfully yours,


Richard W. Bloomingdale, President

cc: Honorable Robert P. Casey
Honorable Patrick Toomey