

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) joined Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA-14) and 31 other members of the House in sending the following letter to members of the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act, urging the Conference Committee to support science funding equivalent or greater to levels passed by the House. The House version of the economic recovery bill included at least \$16 billion for science funding. Yesterday, Holt spoke on the House floor about the recovery bill. The speech can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yW-TxD8kNs>

February 11, 2009

Dear Chairmen Obey and Inouye and Ranking Members Lewis and Cochran,

Thank you for your work on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and your attention to science funding. In conference we urge you to support science funding at least the levels passed by the House.

Science investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will create jobs, modernize our science facilities, and invest in the critical fields that will keep the United States competitive globally. A successful economic recovery plan should advance our nation's research priorities and future economic growth will depend on the innovation that has driven our country since its founding.

The House version of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* includes vital investments for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. These investments will promote both blue and white collar jobs by funding improvements to laboratories and facilities that are approved and shovel ready, and investing in the research programs that will drive innovation. A recent report estimated that every \$1 billion investment in our nation's innovation infrastructure would create 20,000 jobs.

Government investment in research and development programs spurs private investment, multiplying the effects of scarce federal dollars while leading to the discovery of new technologies and fostering innovation. The *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* provides a unique opportunity to reverse the trend of declining research and development investment and lay a strong foundation for our nation's prosperity and ability to face energy, security, health, and environmental challenges. Investment in science over the next two years creates jobs in the short term while building a foundation for long term economic growth.

We respectfully request that science investments be given a high priority and that their funding be maintained at least the House levels through the conference process. Funding these critical science investments will help address both the near-term need for an economic stimulus and the ongoing need to rebuild the nation's scientific and engineering infrastructure upon which the future of American revitalization and innovation depends.

Signers include: Rush Holt, Anna G. Eshoo, Betty Sutton, Tammy Baldwin, Bill Foster, Carol Shea-Porter, Carolyn Maloney, Chris Van Hollen, Dale Kildee, David Price, Donna Edwards, Donna M. Christensen, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Eric Massa, Hank Johnson, Jay Inslee, Jerrold Nadler, Jerry McNerney, David Loebsack, Lois Capps, Mary Jo Kilroy, Maurice Hinchey, Michael C. Capuano, Michael M. Honda, Frank Pallone, Peter Welch, Jan Schakowsky, Joe Sestak, Bart Stupak, Suzanne Kosmas, Tim Bishop, Vernon Ehlers, and Zoe Lofgren.

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