

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Bassam Z. Shakhshiri
President-Elect, 2011
President, 2012
Immediate Past President, 2013

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April 23, 2012

The Honorable John Holdren, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Dr. Holdren:

On behalf of the American Chemical Society, I am writing to thank President Obama for his support for research and development in the fiscal year 2013 budget. Specifically, ACS appreciates that the budget proposal maintains the focus on three key science agencies. We concur that the three agencies—National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) laboratories—are critical to preserving America's place as the world leader in innovation. The 2013 budget maintains the commitment to double the budgets for these agencies by providing a total of \$13.1 billion, an increase of 4.4 percent above 2012 funding levels.

America's policymakers must act to ensure that the United States remains the world's recognized economic and innovation leader. Predictable and consistent appropriations for basic scientific research; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education; and policies that ensure energy independence are essential to America's long-term economic health.

We are very pleased President Obama is supportive of the important role that science and technology must play in ensuring continued U.S. prosperity. We also recognize the President is faced with an extremely difficult budget environment and understand the hard choices that must be made to ensure the nation's fiscal health. Therefore, we appreciate more fully the Administration making continued increases for these agencies a priority.

ACS is proud to join in supporting

- National Science Foundation funding of \$7.373 billion, an amount consistent with maintaining the Agency's doubling track by 2016.
- Department of Energy Office of Science funding of \$4.992 billion. Going forward, it is essential policy makers make every effort to keep the Agency on the doubling track established in the America COMPETES re-authorization legislation.
- National Institutes of Standards and Technology funding of \$857 million.

These agencies are critical to bolstering America's innovation, energy, and manufacturing industries, and we appreciate the President's leadership in this arena and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Glenn Ruskin, director, ACS Office of Public Affairs at (202) 872-4386 or g_ruskin@acs.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bassam Z. Shakhashiri". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "B".

Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Ph.D.
President