

**Oral Statement of Dr. John P. Holdren  
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President of the United States  
to the  
Committee on Science, Space and Technology  
United States House of Representatives  
on  
Research and Development in the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget  
February 17, 2011**

Chairman Hall, Ranking Member Johnson, Members of the Committee: It's a privilege for me to be with you today to discuss the civilian science and technology components of the President's fiscal year 2012 Budget.

The premise behind this part of the Budget is one I believe we all share: It's that creating the American jobs and industries of the future – and the quality of life we all want for our children and grandchildren -- will require investing in the creativity and capacity to innovate of the American people.

The 2012 Budget does so with responsible, targeted investments in the foundations of discovery and innovation — in R&D, STEM education, and 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure — with increases in the highest-priority focuses offset by reductions in lower-priority ones. It's a budget aimed at helping us win the future by out-innovating, out-educating, and out-building the competition.

Obviously, we need the continued support of the Congress to get it done. I stress “continued support” because strengthening the national effort in science, technology, and innovation has been very a much a joint venture of the Congress and the Administration over the past two years. We hope to extend that partnership in this new Congress.

All told, this Budget proposes \$66.8 billion for civilian research and development, an increase of \$4.1 billion or 6.5 percent over the 2010 funding level in this category. But the Administration is committed to reducing the deficit even as we prime the pump of discovery and innovation. Accordingly, our proposed investments in R&D, STEM education, and infrastructure fit within an overall non-security discretionary budget that would be frozen at 2010 levels for the second year in a row. The Budget reflects strategic decisions to focus resources on those areas where the payoff for the American people is likely to be highest.

Mr. Chairman, I know the Committee is already familiar with the details of the Administration's FY2012 proposed budget, but let me briefly highlight some key points:

Consistent with the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, passed in December with leadership from this Committee and signed by the President in January, the Budget calls for continuing on the doubling trajectory for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology laboratories.

In the case of NASA, the President's budget holds that agency to the 2010 appropriated level of \$18.7 billion while still funding every initiative called for in the 2010 NASA Authorization Act.

The President's budget also helps the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration improve critical weather and climate services, invest more heavily in restoring our oceans and coasts, and ensure continuity in crucial Earth-observation satellite coverage.

The Budget reinforces the DOE's work to make clean energy affordable and abundant, with notable increases for ARPA-E, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.

To help the Nation win the future, the 2012 Budget also emphasizes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, in part by providing \$100 million as a down payment on a 10-year effort to help prepare 100,000 new, highly effective STEM teachers.

Additionally, it includes investments for a Wireless Innovation and Infrastructure Initiative to help extend the next generation of wireless Internet to 98 percent of the U.S. population.

Let me reiterate, in closing, the guiding principle underlying this Budget: America's strength, prosperity, and global leadership depend directly on the investments we're willing to make in R&D, in STEM education, and in infrastructure.

Investments in these domains are the ultimate act of hope, the source of the most important legacy we can leave. Only by sustaining them can we assure future generations of Americans a society and place in the world worthy of the history of this great Nation, which has been building its prosperity and global leadership on a foundation of science, technology, and innovation since the days of Jefferson and Franklin.

Staying the course in the current fiscal environment will not be easy, but I believe the President's 2012 Budget for science and technology provides a blueprint for doing so that is both visionary and responsible. The support of this Committee – which has been the source itself of so much visionary and also responsible legislation in this domain – will be essential if we are to stay the course. I look forward to working with you to that end.

I will be pleased to try to answer any questions the Members may have.