



American Statistical Association

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June 6, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander,

As president of the American Statistical Association, with its 18,000 members, I write in support of the requested Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) budget—\$124 million—for the Energy Information Administration (EIA).¹

Energy issues are integral to our economy and national security. Hundreds of billions of dollars ride on energy markets and on investments in energy production, energy conservation, and energy-consuming equipment, appliances, and vehicles. Our energy imports and the global energy market make energy a security issue.

EIA is the principal source of unbiased information to help our country understand its needs and risks and to help guide our decisions. Policymakers, businesses, and regulators all rely on EIA for data about domestic and global energy reserves, production, consumption, and efficiency.

Given the importance of EIA data to our economy and security, I am very concerned with the 14% cut to EIA's budget for FY11. This cut will result in less data in some cases and less timely data in other cases. EIA data should be viewed as a form of business intelligence. We should not undermine that intelligence when its strategic importance and economic value are so critical to determining how to recover from economic recession and navigate the world energy conditions.

I know the current federal budget environment calls for painful choices. But considering the value of reliable energy data, I urge you to reverse the FY11 cuts and fund EIA at its FY12 request level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert N. Rodriguez, PhD
2012 President, American Statistical Association

CC: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chair, Appropriations Committee; The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee

¹ EIA provides financial support to the ASA of approximately \$30 K/year for the administration of a committee that advises EIA on a range of issues related to the collection, analysis and dissemination of energy data. Members of the committee serve without pay as a service to their profession and the nation.