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May 31, 2013

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein, Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Kaptur and Ranking Member Alexander:

As president of the American Statistical Association, with its 18,700 members, I write in support of the requested Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget—\$117 million—for the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

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

At every turn, EIA is the principal source of unbiased information to help us understand our needs and risks and guide our decisions. Policymakers, businesses, and regulators rely upon EIA for data concerning domestic and global energy reserves, energy production, energy consumption, and energy efficiency.

Given the importance of EIA data to our economy and security, I believe full funding for the FY14 request is vital. This level of funding would return EIA to its FY10 funding (accounting for inflation) and allow it to complete the 2012 Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey; launch the 2014 Residential Energy Consumption Survey; implement National Academy of Sciences' recommendations to improve the execution of these consumption surveys; modernize and streamline data-collection processes across its energy supply surveys; enhance the ability to monitor, forecast, and report on international energy developments; upgrade

forecasting capabilities by modernizing the National Energy Modeling System; and improve customer access to EIA statistics and analyses via its website.

In my opinion, EIA data should be viewed as a form of business and strategic intelligence to inform national policies. I do not think we should undermine that intelligence when its strategic importance and economic value is so critical to our decisionmaking in recovering from economic recession and navigating the world energy conditions.

Understanding the current federal budget environment calls for painful choices. Considering the value of reliable energy data, I respectfully urge you to fully fund the FY14 EIA request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Davidian".

Marie Davidian, PhD
President, American Statistical Association