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The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Chairman
House Appropriations Energy & Water Subcommittee
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky:

The ASME Energy Committee (EnComm) was pleased to learn that the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill that was recently passed by the House of Representatives contained additional funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy. Indeed as we move toward clean energy sources, nuclear energy will play an indispensable role and will enhance our nation's energy security. Despite this, the EnComm was displeased to see reduced funding for the RE-ENERGYSE initiative shared by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the DOE. The House version appropriated \$7 million for this program, while the Senate declined to fund it at all. Therefore we urge you to work with your colleagues to restore funding for this program consistent with the request submitted by the Administration.

The 127,000-member ASME is a nonprofit, worldwide educational and technical Society. It conducts one of the world's largest technical publishing operations, holds more than 30 technical conferences and 200 professional development courses each year, and sets some 600 industrial and manufacturing standards. The Energy Committee of ASME's Technical Communities comprises 30 members from 17 Divisions of ASME, representing approximately 40,000 of ASME's members.

As our nation continues to wrestle with our energy future, we must continue to recruit, train, and deploy the next generation of scientists and engineers to address this critical issue. Programs like the RE-ENERGYSE will provide scholarships, grants, and fellowships for engineers who are seeking to address energy-related challenges and test sustainable solutions that could permanently disrupt our nation's current portfolio. It is not only an issue of education but of national security as well.

We strongly urge you to work with Congress to restore funding for the RE-ENERGYSE program for FY 2010 in the final version of the legislation.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Kok, PE
Chair, Energy Committee

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*This letter represents the views of the Energy Committee of ASME's Technical Divisions
and is not necessarily a position of ASME as a whole.*