APLU is part of the broad business, university and science community concerned about cuts and stagnating federal funding in science and research at a time when other nations are increasing their research investments. We believe the FY2015 Energy & Water Appropriations bill must work to close this innovation deficit with reasonable increases in key accounts, as described below.

These investments will develop the ideas, the people, and the innovations that power our economy, create jobs, improve health and strengthen our national security, ensuring that the U.S. maintains its role as global leader. Additionally, the growth supported by this innovation will help the nation address its fiscal challenges.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) PROGRAMS

DOE Office of Science
APLU Request: $5.223 billion
(FY2015 PBR = $5.11B; FY2014 = $5.066B; FY2013 = $4.87B*)

APLU advocates for at least a three percent increase for the DOE Office of Science, bringing the funding level to $5.223 billion in FY2015. This would help continue support for leading-edge energy research and for educating the next generation of scientists. The Office of Science is our country’s largest supporter of foundational research in the physical sciences, helping to advance the fundamental science knowledge base and train future scientists. Robust funding for the Office of Science is necessary to ensure we close the innovation deficit and build a better America by remaining a global leader in science and technology. As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, funding scientific research, including the Office of Science, should be a priority. The technological advances, like those funded by DOE, are the basis of our nation’s economic growth and aid in our national defense.

Within the Office of Science, funding the Energy Frontier Research Centers Program (EFRCs) continues to be an important component in addressing the grand energy challenges identified by the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee. We urge continued support for this program in FY2015.

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E)
APLU Request: $325 million
(FY2015 PBR = $325M; FY2014 = $280M; FY2013 = $265M*)

APLU supports funding ARPA-E at $325 million in FY2015. ARPA-E assembles some of the country’s brightest minds in cross-disciplinary research teams to focus on creative, high-risk/high-reward, transformation energy research and the rapid development of transformational clean energy technologies. By leveraging talent in all sectors - from private industry, to universities, to government labs - ARPA-E fosters a robust and cohesive community of energy researchers and technology developers in the U.S.