Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2006

The Honorable David L. Hobson
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky:

As your Subcommittee begins consideration of Fiscal Year 2007 funding for the Department of Energy, we encourage you to support robust funding for hydrogen and fuel cell technology programs.

Ongoing volatility in the nation's energy markets, coupled with continued tension in the Middle East and the impact of Hurricane Katrina on a significant portion of our petroleum supply and the distribution network, clearly demonstrates the need for our nation to diversify our national energy portfolio and develop alternative sources of energy that will lead us to a secure and independent energy future.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT05) demonstrated Congress's strong commitment to hydrogen and fuel cell technology development and recognition that accelerating the commercialization of this technology represents a critical step toward addressing national challenges such as reducing our reliance on foreign sources of energy, improving air quality and lessening emissions, and providing reliable, affordable, high-quality sources of power.

The funding authorized in EPACT05 for research and development, demonstration projects, transition to market activities, codes and standards, and reports will play a vital role in the future of the hydrogen and fuel cell industry. Unfortunately, the FY07 budget request falls short of the levels authorized in EPACT05. To this end, we respectfully request that this year's appropriation for DOE's core hydrogen and fuel cell programs reflect both the spirit of EPACT05 and the needs of the critical efforts they support.

We understand and appreciate the fiscal pressures your Subcommittee faces this year. Thank you for your consideration of our request and your continued support for hydrogen and fuel cell technology.

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Member of Congress

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