

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS**  
*An International Geological Organization*



Mr. David G. Rensink  
*President*

May 16, 2011

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

The Honorable Rodney Freylinghausen, Chair  
The Honorable Peter Visclosky, Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the world's largest scientific and professional geological association.

On April 28, 2011, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) announced that due to insufficient FY2011 funding it would be forced to curtail several programmatic activities. The cuts include its data collection, analysis and forecasting for oil and natural gas, electricity, renewable energy, and coal, as well as some of its broader forecasting and energy analysis programs.

At a time of rising energy prices, particularly crude oil and gasoline, it is crucial that the United States have a clear understanding of global and domestic energy supply and demand, as well as emerging trends in the energy and financial markets.

In order to do this, we need consistent data collected on a continuous basis over time. This is the type of data that EIA has historically collected and analyzed and that will no longer be available. Yet this information is essential to formulating energy policy and ensuring U.S. energy security.

As your committees develop appropriations bills for FY2012, I urge you to fully fund EIA so that it can continue to provide the American people and policy makers the energy data and analysis needed to confront our nation's energy challenges.

Sincerely,

David Rensink  
AAPG President