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June 12, 2014

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 and Ranking Member Alexander:

As president elect of the American Statistical Association, with its 19,000 members, I write in support of the requested Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) budget—\$122.5 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, the 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 the EIA for data concerning domestic and global energy reserves, energy production, energy consumption, and energy efficiency. The EIA has also been a leader in making their data accessible to the public, including through innovative graphical displays exemplified by their new U.S. Energy Data Mapping System (<http://www.eia.gov/state/maps.cfm>.)

Given the importance of EIA data to our economy and security, I believe full funding for the FY15 request is vital. This level of funding would return the EIA to its FY09 funding (accounting for inflation) and allow it to implement programs to (i) provide consumption data for specific building efficiency technologies, practices, and characteristics; (ii) improve understanding of domestic energy markets—specifically for midterm infrastructure and logistical issues important to policy makers and market participants —within the broader context of the world energy system; and (iii) better track domestic petroleum market dynamics at the state and regional level. The EIA will also begin preparations for the next Residential Energy Consumption Survey in FY15.

In my opinion, EIA data should be viewed as a form of business intelligence that informs national policies. I think we must support that intelligence given its strategic importance and

economic value is so critical to our decision-making 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 FY15 EIA request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Morganstein".

David Morganstein

President Elect, American Statistical Association