



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics[®]

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July 30, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Kaptur,

As president of the American Statistical Association, with its 19,000 members, I write to urge the Senate FY16 level for the Energy Information Administration (EIA)—\$122 million—be enacted.

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>.)

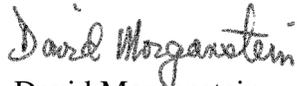
Given the importance of EIA data to our economy and security, I believe the Senate level for the FY16 request is vital. This level of funding would return the EIA to its **FY09** funding (accounting for inflation) and allow it to implement programs to better serve EIA stakeholders. As an example of the some of the praise EIA receives for its work, please see this piece about EIA's new data portals: <https://energyathaas.wordpress.com/2014/04/27/your-tax-dollars-hard-at-work-eias-new-data-portals/>.

In my opinion, EIA data should be viewed as a form of business intelligence that informs national policies. 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 fund the EIA at \$122 million.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Morganstein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Morganstein

President, American Statistical Association