

Return Funding for the Office of Nuclear Physics to FY 2008 Levels

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$95	\$96	\$96	\$97	\$99	\$101	\$104	\$106	\$109	\$111	\$483	\$1,014

Heritage Recommendation:

Reduce funding for the Office of Nuclear Physics to FY 2008 levels. This proposal saves \$95 million in 2016, and \$1 billion over 10 years.

Rationale:

The Office of Nuclear Physics supports theoretical and experimental research in the field. The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation conduct nearly all basic nuclear physics research. Research groups at 90 public and private universities, and nine federally funded laboratories (including Brookhaven, Oak Ridge, and Los Alamos), are exploring heavy ions, medium-energy physics, low-energy research, theory, accelerators, and isotopes. Much like the High Energy Physics program, funding for the Nuclear Physics program has become excessive. Program funding should be returned to the FY 2008 amount of \$423 million.

Additional Reading:

- Nicolas Loris, “Department of Energy Budget Cuts: Time to End the Hidden Green Stimulus,” Heritage Foundation *Backgrounders* No. 2668, March 23, 2012, <http://www.Heritage.org/research/reports/2012/03/departement-of-energy-budget-cuts-time-to-end-the-hidden-green-stimulus>.

Calculations:

Savings are expressed as budget authority and were calculated by comparing current spending levels to estimated levels if FY 2008 had increased spending only for inflation. The FY 2014 funding level of \$569.9 million can be found on page 122 of House of Representatives, 113th Congress, 2nd Session, “Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, 2015,” <http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hrpt-113-hr-fy2015-energywater.pdf>. The 2008 spending level of \$423.7 million can be found on page 273 of “FY 2010 Congressional Budget: Nuclear Physics, Funding Profile by Subprogram,” http://science.energy.gov/~media/budget/pdf/sc-budget-request-to-congress/fy-2010/Cong_Budget_2010_NP.pdf. Estimated spending if held constant at the 2008 spending level was calculated by increasing the 2008 amount according to inflation in the CPI, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 2008 to 2013. Had spending increased only with inflation, spending in 2014 would have been \$476 million, as compared to the enacted level of \$570 million. The \$94 million difference between the two spending levels was increased at the same rate as discretionary spending in the CBO’s most recent August 2014 baseline spending projections.