

# Return Advanced Scientific Computing Research to FY 2008 Levels

SAVINGS IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2016-2020	2016-2025
\$85	\$86	\$86	\$87	\$89	\$91	\$93	\$95	\$97	\$99	\$433	\$908

## Heritage Recommendation:

Reduce Advanced Scientific Computing Research spending to FY 2008 levels. This proposal saves \$85 million in 2016, and \$907 million over 10 years.

## Rationale:

This program under the Office of Sciences conducts computer modeling, simulations, and testing to advance the Department of Energy's mission through applied mathematics, computer science, and integrated network environments. These models can lay the foundation for scientific breakthroughs and are arguably some of the most important aspects of basic DOE research, but this program has also been the beneficiary of a consistently expanding budget, and in order to live within today's fiscal constraints, funding should be returned to the FY 2008 levels.

## Additional Reading:

- Nicolas Loris, "Department of Energy Budget Cuts: Time to End the Hidden Green Stimulus," Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder* No. 2669, 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, had FY 2008 spending increased only for inflation. The FY 2014 funding level of \$478.6 million can be found on page 116 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 \$351.2 million can be found on page 6 of Yukiko Sekine, "NERSC Users Group Meeting Department of Energy Update," U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science, October 3, 2008, <https://www.nersc.gov/assets/NUG-Meetings/2008/NERSC-NUG-yukiko-08.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 \$395 million, as compared to the enacted level of \$479 million. The \$84 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.