Funding Science in Difficult Times

Presentation to the Member Representatives of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

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Recap of Science Funding
FY 2008 – FY 2009

- Endorsed “innovation” science increases not included in disappointing FY 2008 final. President’s request traded social programs for science.
- FY 2008 supplemental passed, providing small add-ons for science. Congress is “backfilling” budgets. Full budgets delayed because of CR.
- FY 2009 appropriations process marked with bitterness; process is hijacked for political purposes. CR runs until March 2009.
- $250 BILLION FY 2008 War Supplemental – $338 MILLION included for science agencies.
Federal Budget Pressures

- Entitlements, Mandatory, Net Interest: $-182.9 (5%)
- National Defense Discretionary: $530.9 (16%)
- Non-Defense Discretionary: $589.7 (17%)
- Discretionary Receipts: $2,077.6 (62%)
Discretionary Spending

Discretionary Spending by Appropriations Bill
FY 2009 House = $1,013 billion

Source: Congressional Budget Office. Excludes supplemental funds for Iraq and Afghanistan military operations.
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The Federal Deficit

Federal Budget Deficit (or Surplus), FY 1960-2013
in billions of CONSTANT FY 2008 dollars

Data in fiscal years. Source: Budget of the United States Government, FY 2009. FY 2008 data are estimates. FY 2009-2013 data are President's budget proposals. FY 2009 - 2013 figures exclude Iraq and Afghanistan military costs.

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The National Debt, 1960-2013
in billions of dollars (President's proposals)

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Funding Trends for NSF, DOE Office of Science, NASA, and NOAA (FY2006 – FY2009)
Rhetoric: What are they saying?

Science Debate 2008 Questions –
(www.sciencedebate2008.org)

- **Obama:** “We need to enhance our understanding of the effect of climate change...through expanded research programs at NASA, NOAA, NSF and USGS.”

- **McCain:** “I will continue to support the US Global Change Research Program and ensure that the program’s activities support the Nation’s needs for climate related information to help it prepare for the future.”
Reality: But what is really being said?

- Congress: Must focus on budget reality, only increases are in defense. Can’t fund everything.

- OMB: Need to stick to realistic budgets, no cost overruns.

- Next administration will need to make tough funding choices.
### Political Reality for FY 2010 and Beyond

- Increased Democratic majority in Congress predicted – still may not be enough for filibuster-proof Senate majority. **Will science be a priority?**

- Budget reality – $700 billion financial bailout and continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. **Can science compete?**

- Climate Change focus will be on cap and trade legislation. **Will research be included? Will adaptation be included?**

- Investment in science must be part of the recovery plan.
How can the UCAR Community Lead?

2. Diversify: Look to federal funding sources which are growing, for example DoD and DOE.
3. Continue to Advocate for Basic Research: As the government focuses more on applied research continue to illustrate the importance of basic research.