

2012 December 10

**From: Robert L. Byer, President, American Physical Society**  
**To: Members of the American Physical Society**  
**Re: URGENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED TO AVERT STEEP BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

#### **THE ISSUE**

On January 1st, 2013, absent congressional action, automatic, across-the-board federal spending cuts of 8 to 9% will take effect. The cuts will apply to both defense spending and non-defense discretionary domestic spending, including science research and education. Entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicaid are exempt. The automatic cuts, or sequestrations, are mandated by the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA), because the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (the "Supercommittee") failed to agree to a \$1.2 trillion deficit-reduction package.

To avoid sequestration, Congress must act in the current "Lame Duck" session or retroactively repair the damage after the 113th Congress convenes in January. The Department of Energy Office of Science would lose \$400 million; NSF, \$586 million; NASA Science \$417 million; and NIH, \$2.52 billion. It would mean staff furloughs, a significant reduction in operating time for user facilities, and a reduction in new NSF grants by as much as one-third.

#### **ACTION REQUIRED**

It is imperative that you convey to your Senators and members of Congress the impact of the sequester before the January 1st deadline in order to encourage progress on a deficit reduction package that takes a balanced approach to the debt problem. I ask that you call the offices of your Senators and members of Congress directly using the following suggested points:

- It is important that the United States get its fiscal house in order.  
A balanced approach is required.
- Investments in scientific research lead to innovation and sustainable economic growth.
- Science and technology are key drivers in economic growth
- Historically, scientific research has enjoyed bipartisan support.

#### **TO FIND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR SENATOR:**

Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

In the upper right-hand corner, click in the drop-down box and select your home state. The next page will provide you with telephone numbers for each of your Senators' Washington, DC offices.

To find contact information for your member of Congress:

Go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

In the upper right-hand corner, under "Find your Representative", enter your home zip code and click "Go". The next page will provide the name of your member. Click on the member's name and you will be directed to his or her homepage. Scroll to the bottom of that page to get to the Washington, D.C. and district office phone numbers. You can place your call to either one, but we recommend calling the Washington office.