F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
FIFTH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
## Washington, DC 20515–4905

Mr. Steve Isakowitz
Chief Financial Officer
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Isakowitz:

I am writing to express approval for your plan to reprogram $9,920,017 to support the development of three Genome to Life Bioenergy Research Centers. Accelerating the development of alternate fuel sources is a nationally-critical endeavor, and I applaud your pursuit of this goal.

I further applaud your decision to make use of available funds to support research centers that have been subject to rigorous peer review. Chairman Gordon's suggestion to partially divert the funds to support a small ecology laboratory that is unrelated to the original appropriation and not competitively awarded would be an abuse of the appropriation process and a poor prioritization of funds. As the Washington Post indicated in its September 9 article, *Pet Projects' Veil is Only Partly Lifted, Lawmakers Find Other Pats to Special-Interest Funding*, Chairman Gordon's request is an attempt at a backdoor earmark.

Sincerely,

Congressman Sensenbrenner
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight,
Science and Technology Committee

Cc: Raymond Orbach, Under Secretary of Science