



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 21, 2005

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Department of Energy's Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) in the Office of Science, and the Office of Biomass Program (OBP) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, we invite you to attend the Biomass to Biofuels Workshop that will help shape the future R&D direction for these important DOE core programs in the biomass arena. With the need to reduce our dependence on imported oil, as reflected in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005), the opportunities and challenges for the respective offices to join their efforts towards the development and deployment of a large-scale bioindustry in the United States have never been greater.

Therefore, OBP and OBER are challenging their communities to identify the critical science needs that would support a significant expansion of a sustainable supply of biomass, and are jointly hosting a small, focused workshop to be held December 7-8, 2005, at the Doubletree Hotel in Rockville, Maryland (1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-1699; Tel: 301-468-1100). The workshop will focus on the biological conversion of lignocellulosics to ethanol and other transportation fuels.

The output of this workshop will be a consensus report that defines common sets of science and technology opportunities to address barriers identified by workshop participants. We will expect the report to be released one month after the workshop. This report will be used to directly promote joint office collaboration within DOE programs to provide efficient coverage of near and mid-term science and technology, including transfer to industry. More importantly, it will define goals and describe key research approaches needed to generate results and conclusions that will be acknowledged as defensible and supported within the greater scientific community.

This letter serves as a formal invitation to this workshop, which is limited in attendance to ensure a focused and vigorous dialogue. A copy of the draft agenda is provided with this letter.

We appreciate your interest and hope to see you at the workshop.

Sincerely,

Ari Patrinos
Office of Biological and
Environmental Research
Office of Science

Douglas E. Kaempf
Office of Biomass Programs
Office of Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy