

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairman, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member, Energy and Water
Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Energy and Water
Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kaptur, Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Simpson, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

America's leadership in energy innovation has advanced a number of national priorities over the past several decades. Federal investments have helped spawn new and lucrative domestic industries, created millions of well-paying U.S. jobs, increased energy security, enhanced the nation's global influence, and reduced emissions. While these are impressive returns on investment, there is still enormous untapped potential in this sector. With your continued leadership, robust and well-directed federal funding can create additional opportunities to develop, advance, and commercialize critical energy technologies and unlock the many rewards that come with them. We ask that Congress continue to provide the resources needed for vital research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) activities across all areas of the Department of Energy (DOE), and increase these investments where possible.

Global energy demand is projected to grow almost 30% by 2040, and a diverse range of new resources will be required to meet the needs of modern energy systems. With sufficient federal support, U.S. innovators, industries, and workers will be well-positioned to deliver these tools. DOE-supported efforts continue to cut the costs of advanced wind, solar, storage, and other next generation renewable technologies; improve the efficiency of buildings, power plants, light- and heavy-duty vehicles, electric grids, and manufacturing processes and facilities; accelerate the development of low-carbon fuels and resilient, economical nuclear energy technologies; and unlock opportunities to capture carbon, store it, or use it to make valuable products. Through each of its applied offices, ARPA-E, the Office of Science, and other programs, DOE is advancing technologies that could revolutionize the production and use of energy, grow the economy, advance America's geopolitical interests, and help solve a multitude of challenges from cybersecurity to climate change.

Federal investments in energy RD&D are an investment in an entire innovation ecosystem that stretches well beyond the Beltway. DOE's budget funds activities across the country, drawing upon the unparalleled skills, expertise, and other resources at America's national laboratories, universities, and private research facilities in every state in the nation. It also supports partnerships with innovators in the private sector to test and demonstrate new technologies. This network ensures that every part of the country has an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the breakthroughs in energy technology supported by federal investments.

We appreciate your leadership in securing robust funding for energy innovation during the FY19 appropriations process. As you and your colleagues negotiate FY20 appropriations for Energy and Water Development, we respectfully request your continued support for the critical work being done across the full DOE portfolio, with funding at FY19 enacted levels or greater if possible. Understanding the challenge of balancing a number of worthy requests for federal funding, we hope that the demonstrated benefits and potential of energy innovation investments allow this to rise to the level of national priority that it deserves. Again, we are grateful for your ongoing support for and attention to these vital issues.

Sincerely,

Third Way
ClearPath Action
Environmental Defense Fund
Natural Resources Defense Council
BPC Action
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute
American Council for Capital Formation
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES)
Carbon 180
SSTI
The State University of New York System
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
Great Plains Institute
The Nature Conservancy
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Nuclear Energy Institute
Florida State University
Carbon Utilization Research Council
General Atomics
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
American Wind Energy Association
National Association of Manufacturers