

March 17, 2020

Chairwoman Marcy Kaptur  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2186 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Mike Simpson  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

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

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

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 to create new economic opportunities, strengthen American leadership and curb carbon emissions to the level needed to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. An increase of targeted 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 pushing for the resources needed for vital research, development, demonstration, and commercial deployment activities across all areas of the Department of Energy (DOE), prioritizing increases where they will have the biggest climate impact.

Public and private spending on energy related research and development increased globally in 2017 and 2018. In the United States alone, investment in the Department of Energy innovation system has increased 50 percent relative to 2014 levels due to your outstanding leadership. However, the U.S. has continued to fall behind in terms of public energy R&D spending relative to national GDP as compared to other developed economies, as highlighted in a recent report by the American Energy Innovation Council.<sup>1</sup> This means that the U.S. is spending a smaller share of research budgets on energy at a time when other countries are racing ahead to capture their share of what is a \$40 trillion opportunity for global energy technology markets over the next 20 years.<sup>2</sup> Congress has shown great foresight and wisdom in bolstering RD&D activities at DOE in recent years, but America cannot rest on previous successes while the rest of the world continues to surge ahead. Without continuing to expand federally supported RD&D we further imperil our prospects to lead the global energy transition.

With sufficient federal support for a balanced portfolio of research across the innovation ecosystem – from use-inspired basic research to applied research and experimental development to field validation and commercial-scale first-of-a-kind technology demonstrations – we can reverse this trend, positioning U.S. researchers, industries, and workers to develop and benefit from markets for emerging clean energy technologies.

Federal investments in energy RD&D stretch well beyond the Beltway. DOE's budget funds activities in every state, drawing upon the unparalleled skills, expertise, and resources at America's national laboratories, universities, and private research facilities across the country. 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 FY20 appropriations process. As you and your colleagues negotiate FY21 appropriations for Energy and Water Development, we appreciate your continued support for the critical work being done across the full DOE portfolio, and respectfully request continued expansion of funding over the next five years to ensure ongoing American leadership in energy innovation. 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	Environmental and Energy Study Institute
ClearPath Action	Gas Turbine Association
Environmental Defense Fund	Geothermal Resources Council
Advanced Biofuels Business Council	Great Plains Institute
Advanced Energy Economy	Heat is Power Association
Alliance to Save Energy	Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
Alternative Fuels and Chemicals Coalition	Materials Research Society
American Chemical Society	Midwest Cogeneration Association
American Council for Capital Formation	Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
American Council of Engineering Companies	National Association of Energy Service Companies
American Crystallographic Association	National Audubon Society
American Gas Association	National Hydropower Association
American Nuclear Society	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
American Wind Energy Association	National Wildlife Federation
BPC Action	Natural Resources Defense Council
Breakthrough Institute	Nuclear Energy Institute
Business Council for Sustainable Energy	Nuclear Matters
Carbon Utilization Research Council	Portland Cement Association
Carbon180	Solar Energy Industries Association
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)	SSTI
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions	Summit Ridge Energy
Clean Air Task Force	The Nature Conservancy
Clean Energy Business Network	The Science Coalition
Combined Heat and Power Alliance	Union of Concerned Scientists
Council of Scientific Society Presidents	United Steelworkers
Digital Climate Alliance	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Edison Electric Institute	U.S. Nuclear Industry Council
Enel North America, Inc.	Utah Clean Energy
Energy Storage Association	

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1 American Energy Innovation Council “Energy Innovation: Supporting the Full Innovation Lifecycle” February 2020  
<http://americanenergyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Energy-Innovation-Supporting-the-Full-Innovation-Lifecycle.pdf>

2 International Energy Agency “World Energy Outlook 2018” 2018  
<https://webstore.iea.org/download/summary/190?fileName=English-WEO-2018-ES.pdf>