



House of Representatives
**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT COALITION**

July 17, 2018

Chairman Richard Shelby
Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen
Committee on Appropriations
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Frelinghuysen, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Lowey:

We, the below signed members of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, write to express our strong support for the Senate's fiscal year (FY) 2019 funding levels for the Department of Energy (DOE) *Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)* and *Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)* programs. We were pleased to see that the Senate's FY 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations bill at least maintains funding for EERE and increases funding for ARPA-E compared to FY 2018 levels. H.R. 5895, the House Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2019, contains misguided cuts to these strategic programs, and we urge you to move forward with the Senate's FY 2019 levels in any conference agreement.

It is our strong belief that the United States must continue to make substantial investments in the valuable energy research and development activities supported by these programs and should strive to double funding for these and other innovative energy programs over the next five years. In this way, the United States can maintain its status as a global leader in energy innovation while meeting our *Mission Innovation* goals, help create valuable new jobs for American workers, and further safeguard our planet from the dangers of climate change – many of which are already impacting Americans' daily lives.

As you know, DOE's energy research and development programs play an important role in enabling cutting-edge technologies to take root in the American economy. In 2018, these programs helped support nearly 3.2 million Americans who were employed in clean energy jobs.¹ ARPA-E promotes innovation across all forms of energy in the United State, securing investments in the kind of "high-risk,

¹ Clean Jobs America, E2, www.cleanjobscount.org

high-reward” technologies often overlooked in the private sector. EERE is dedicated to preserving American leadership in the global transition to a clean energy economy through investments in research and development that promote energy efficiency, affordability, and security. Investments in these programs have helped American businesses innovate in wind, solar, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency technologies. Consider:

- Since 2008 the price of wind has dropped by 75% reaching an all-time low in 2017.²
- In 2016, employment in the solar industry represented 1 in 50 new jobs created in the United States.³
- More than 1 in 6 out every construction job in the United States is in energy efficiency.⁴
- Since 2009, 136 ARPA-E funded projects have attracted more than \$2.6 billion in private sector follow-on funding.⁵
- \$12 billion in EERE investments have yielded an estimated net economic benefit of more than \$230 billion, with an overall return on investment of more than 20%.⁶

Without continued support for these critical programs, trends like these could reverse or move offshore.

In November of 2015, the United States, European Union, and 21 other countries joined together in the *Mission Innovation* global initiative to “dramatically accelerate global clean energy innovation,” through a commitment to double investment in clean energy research and development over five years. Sticking to this commitment and establishing U.S. leadership in this competitive sector is critical. Unfortunately, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, China overtook the United States in 2017 as the world leader in clean energy investment. We know that the jobs and economy of tomorrow will be developed by those who control the next generation of energy technologies. The United States needs to be investing in innovation to be competitive globally, or risks falling behind.

Research and development at DOE is also helping to create meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through investments in new renewable and energy efficiency technologies. For example, DOE estimates that widespread adoption of LED lighting, whose development and initial deployment was funded by the department, could lead to energy savings equivalent to 44 large electric power plants or a total savings of \$30 billion dollars by 2027.⁷ These energy savings translate to millions of tons of CO₂ not emitted into our atmosphere each year. However, LED lights are just one of many innovations that programs like ARPA-E and EERE have made feasible for economy-wide deployment and that may have otherwise gone underutilized.

Cuts to EERE and ARPA-E only take us backward and signal our abdication of global leadership in this arena. Investing in DOE energy research and development programs will help bolster our energy independence, enhance our global competitiveness, and secure new American jobs – all while protecting our environment and public health. We agree with the sentiments expressed by Senator

² Revolution Now, NRDC (2018), <https://www.nrdc.org/revolution-now>

³ National Solar Jobs Census (2016). <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/national/>

⁴ Clean Jobs America, E2, www.cleanjobscount.org

⁵ ARPA-E Impact, Department of Energy, <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=site-page/arpa-e-impact>

⁶ About the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/eere/about-office-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy>

⁷ LED Lighting, US Department of Energy, <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/save-electricity-and-fuel/lighting-choices-save-you-money/led-lighting>

Lamar Alexander, chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, about the importance of government-funded research: "We have invented the internet, the personal computer, nuclear power, the polio vaccine. It is hard to think of a major technological invention since World War II that didn't have some support from government-sponsored research."⁸ For these reasons, we thank you for your continued support of EERE and ARPA-E and urge you to maintain the Senate's level of funding for these valuable programs in FY 2019.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



PAUL D. TONKO
Member of Congress



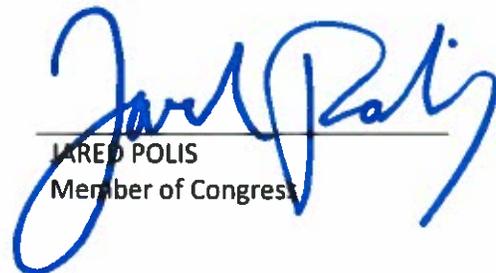
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MIKE QUIGLEY
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JARED POLIS
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CHELLIE PINGREE
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MATT CARTWRIGHT
Member of Congress

⁸ *Senate Passes \$145B Spending Bill, With Boost to Energy Innovation Programs*, Greentech Media, <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/senate-passes-funding-for-doe-with-boost-to-energy-innovation-programs#gs.SpoBdYE>



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JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



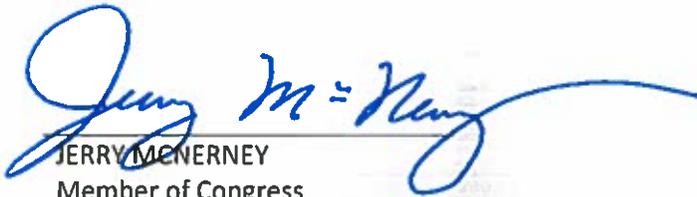
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JARED HUFFMAN
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BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



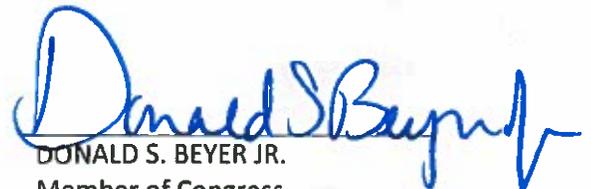
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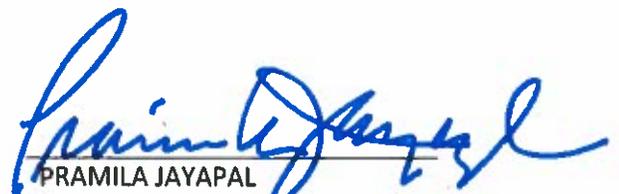
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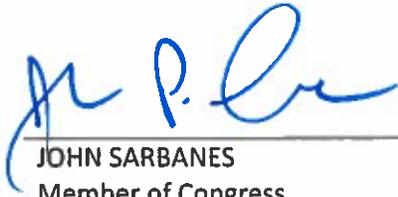
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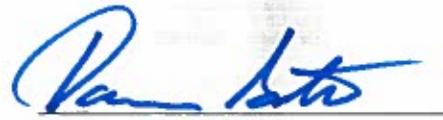
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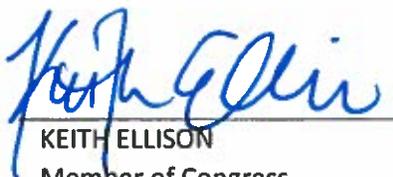
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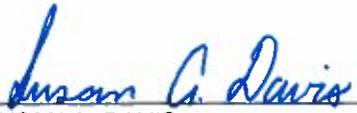
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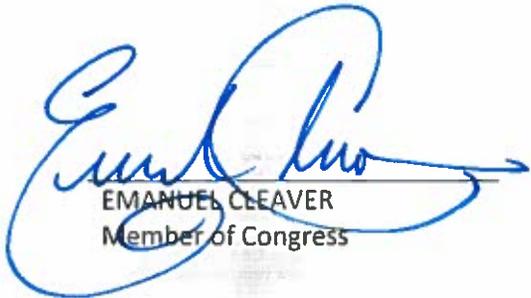

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