



February 13, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
113 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
437 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
455 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Alexander & Ranking Members Leahy and Feinstein:

As companies and organizations deploying clean and efficient energy technologies across the United States, we urge you to provide robust support for federal clean energy programs when Congress resumes consideration of funding levels for the remainder of fiscal year 2018 (FY2018).

Within the jurisdiction of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, we specifically urge you to maintain robust funding in FY2018 for critical Department of Energy (DOE) offices such as Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Fossil Energy, the Office of Science, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy. We also urge the full Appropriations Committee to continue to support the wide range of energy-related activities that fall under the jurisdiction of other federal agencies, such as the Departments of Interior (DOI), Defense (DOD), Agriculture (USDA), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Federal investments like these encourage private-sector innovation, support critical technical assistance to customers and providers and help address barriers to deployment—paving the way for diverse energy technologies to rise and compete. Consumers, businesses, and taxpayers across America are enjoying the benefits of job creation, lower energy bills, greater reliability, increased domestic investment, and healthier communities.

In 2016, the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and natural gas sectors supported over 3 million U.S. jobs and attracted \$58.6 billion in private investment.¹ Furthermore, businesses and consumers across the U.S. are saving money thanks to the innovation of cleaner and more efficient energy and transportation technologies. The U.S. economy is using 10% less energy to power each unit of economic growth compared with five years ago, and vehicle fuel economy has improved 12% during this timeframe.²

Allocating resources for these initiatives in FY2018 will help expand a diverse array of clean energy technologies and accelerate cost declines, ensuring continued job growth in the energy sector and a clean, resilient, and cost-competitive energy system.

Sincerely,

Lynn Abramson, Executive Director
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Washington, DC

Sid Abma, CEO
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¹ <https://energy.gov/articles/doe-releases-second-annual-national-energy-employment-analysis-0>; <https://about.bnef.com/clean-energy-investment/#toc-download>

² <http://www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook/>

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