

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Docket OMB-2026-0034
July 13, 2026

Director Russell T. Vought
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Business Leaders, Innovators, and Technology Industry Stakeholders Opposition to OMB proposed “Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance”

Dear Director Vought,

We, the undersigned business leaders and technology industry stakeholders from across the U.S. economy and innovation network, write to oppose the proposed “Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance” and urge the agency to reconsider finalizing the rule. Given the scope and impact of the suggested changes, we also urge OMB to extend the comment period to allow more business stakeholders time to assess the full implications and provide feedback.

As business leaders, we are deeply concerned that the proposal as currently written would undermine the credibility and reliability of federal funding for science, energy and innovation—investments critical to U.S. economic strength. Government-funded research generates returns of more than 200 percent and accounts for a quarter of US productivity growth.¹ It serves as the cornerstone of long-term economic growth driving productivity, facilitating the creation of new enterprises, advancing workforce development, and leveraging private investment.

The proposed changes risk introducing politicization, instability, and increased compliance costs into the federal funding process—factors that would weaken innovation, deter private-sector participation and investment, and hamper America's ability to cultivate the expertise, supply chains, infrastructure, and technology required to ensure global competitiveness.

Among our specific key concerns:

- 1) **Greater Politicization of Funding Threatens Private Sector Confidence:** The rule requires political appointees—not subject-matter experts—to control grant decisions, revokes all deference to peer reviewed science (§200.205), while mandating that funding align with shifting administration priorities (§200.202(a)(iii)).

Business impact: This moves further away from non-partisan, merit-based funding, creating uncertainty that can distort markets, limit private-sector engagement, and raise the risk of arbitrary exclusion from opportunities. Reducing participation across diverse institutions constrains access to expertise, supply chains, and commercialization pathways, ultimately weakening innovation outcomes.

- 2) **Expanded Authority to Terminate Awards Reduces Funding Stability and Increases Project Risk:** The rule authorizes federal agencies to change terms and conditions of approved grants or to terminate grants at any time without a finding of noncompliance or fraud. The rule also removes appeals for cancellations. (§200.340(a)(2)).

Business impact: This represents a major departure from expectations of multi-year funding continuity. It **eliminates funding predictability, discouraging long-term (R&D) investment** and private-sector participation.

¹ Ruth, A. (2025, May 20). *Public R&D investment drives 25% of US productivity growth*. Calendar. <https://www.calendar.com/blog/public-rd-investment-drives-25-of-us-productivity-growth/> ; Ostertag, M. (2025, Sept 15). *How Reducing Federal R&D Reduces GDP Growth*. Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. <https://itif.org/publications/2025/09/15/how-reducing-federal-rd-reduces-gdp-growth/>

- 3) **Higher Compliance Costs and Disproportionate Impact on Small Businesses:** New compliance requirements—including mandated E-Verify participation (§200.303), combined with the elimination of allowable costs such as publication and conference expenses (§200.461), increase the cost and administrative burden of participation.

Business impact: These provisions will dramatically increase costs for awardees, disproportionately impacting key drivers of innovation such as small businesses. They curtail critical knowledge transfer and technical validation that will obstruct innovation cycles reducing U.S. leadership in emerging technologies.

- 4) **Collaboration Barriers Constrain Innovation:** International research collaborations would require case-by-case approval rather than being presumed allowable (§200.220; §200.202(e)), while alignment-based eligibility screening (§200.206) effectively requires companies to track the affiliations and activities of all partners including banks, investors, suppliers, employees, professional associations so as not to taint their application.

Business impact: These changes disrupt standard global research practices; significantly increase **due diligence burdens**, discourage partnerships with international innovation networks, suppliers, and research institutions—**hurting innovation, market access and progress.**

- 5) **Jeopardize U.S. Global Competitiveness:** The combined effect of politicized decision-making, funding instability, and restrictions on collaboration (§200.205; §200.340(a)(2); §200.220) will make the U.S. a less reliable partner in global innovation networks.

Business impact: This drives talent, capital, and partnerships toward more stable, apolitical funding environments. putting U.S. leadership in energy, science and technology at risk.

A stable, merit-based, and credible grant system is foundational to U.S. economic progress and leadership. We urge OMB to reinforce scientific neutrality, ensure funding reliability, and reduce administrative burdens. As drafted, the proposed rule will dampen innovation and risks lasting harm to the nation's research enterprise, American businesses, and the greater U.S. economy. **We strongly urge reconsideration of this proposed rule.**

The following **124 businesses and associations** and **134 business leaders** have electronically signed this letter:

■ Businesses and Associations

3D Epitaxial Technologies	Euclid Techlabs LLC	Point A Consulting
4.0 Analytics Inc	Eva Garland Consulting, LLC	Power to Hydrogen
Abacus Property Solutions	Evergreen Climate Innovations	Princeton NuEnergy
Acme Express, Inc.	Evergreen Climate Innovations	Project NEED Foundation
ACTION Innovation Network, Inc.	EVOENERGY, INC.	Project Vanguard
ADSAT Therapeutics	Frontline BioEnergy	Prometheus Innovations, LLC
Advanced Cooling Technologies	Gaia Energy Research Institute	Qualtech Systems, Inc.
Aeromutable Corporation	Gen-X Solutions LLC	Rapid Ventures LLC
Alliance for Climate Transition	Gliding Ant Ventures	ReJoule
Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition	Grant Management Associates	Renewable Thermal Collaborative
American Clean Resources Group Inc.	Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises, Inc.	Research Triangle Park
Amy's Kitchen	Greenbound Consulting LLC	Revolution Energy

Aphra Communications
Association of University Research
Parks (AURP)
At-Sea Development LLC
BioHydroFuel

Build Efficiently, LLC
Calicat
Capitalist Times
Clean Economy Project
Clean Energy Business Network
Clean Energy Economy Minnesota

Cleantech Leaders Roundtable
Cleantech San Diego
Colorado Cleantech

Concho Energy, LLC
Damir Fusion Group
Direct Electron, LP
Distyngnished Management LLC
Dynamic Grid
E2(Economy+Environment)

Echogen Power Systems (De), Inc.
ecoLong LLC
EcoThriveLLC
Element 8
Elexity
Emissol LLC
Enera Power Group
Environmental Equity Information
Institute
Equiterra Regenerative Design

ESSRE Consulting, Inc.
etre Venture Capital

H2 Catalyst
Hawaii Fish Company Inc.

Infixion Bioscience, Inc
Kazadi Enterprises Ltd.

Kyma Technologies, Inc.
LabStart
Labyrinth Management Group, Inc
Launch Alaska
Lee Farms
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator

M.R.S. Enterprises, LLC
Mabswitch Inc
Maryland Energy Innovation
Accelerator

mHUB
Millig Design Build
Molecule Works Inc.
MPI Solar LLC
Nel Hydrogen US
Neurobehavioral Systems, Inc.

NEV
Nuclear Innovation Alliance
Nusenics, LLC
Oasis Montana Inc.
OceanSpace LLC
OTS R&D, Inc.
Particle Flux Analytics Inc
Perfect Energy, Inc

Philadelphia Solar Energy
Association
Plant Based Products Council
Plugstart

RoCo
Seerstone Development

Semplastics
Sheet Metal AC Contractors
National Association
SixPoint Materials
Small Business Technology Council
Solar Dynamics LLC
Solar SEED, Inc.
Spark AI
Steam Instruments, Inc.

Straven Strategy Group
Sullivan Biomedical LLC
Sun Raven

Susteon Inc.
T2M Advisors
T2M Global, LLC
Terra-Scapes Environmental
TerraShares
The Beach at University of New
Orleans
The Stella Group, Ltd.
Third Way
Time Consulting
TruClear Water Solutions
U.S. Green Building Council
Ultinat, Inc.
Utah Clean Energy
Utility Transformation Consortia

Weather Blanket Insulation

■ Business Leaders

Dan Abrams
President/CEO
Wynkoop Properties, LLC
Clifford Adams
Managing Director
Coady Diemar Partners
Lisa Albrecht
Owner
All Bright Solar

Rojiar Aldashi
CEO
Better Tomorrow Solar
Brian Allen
Managing Director
Appropriate Technology Group
Alexandra Amonettte
Former President
Sweetgrass Associates

Vanessa Andersen
Sustainability Manager
Candy Company
Jay Baldwin
President
Wind River Capital
Partners,LLC
Sheryl Barbosa
Founder
SCN

Mary Ellen Barker

Co-founder and CEO
Solar Land Agent LLC

Russ Bates

Founder
NXTGEN Clean Energy
Solutions

Annette Beitel

President
Future Energy Enterprises, LLC

Jeffrey Bennett

Owner
Big Kid Science

Chris Bentley

Founder
Pet Sustainability Coalition

Eric Berman

Owner
MyFlightbook

Maureen Blanc

Director
Charge Across Town

Eric Bowen

Executive Vice President
Terviva

Henry Brady

Distinguished Professor of
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Policy
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Berkeley

Jim Brilz

Bookkeeper
Adjusted Balance, Inc

Burnet Brown

CEO
GreenTech Motors Corp.

Abigail Caparros-Janto

Energy Auditor

Michael Collins

Professor Emeritus of
Neuroscience
Loyola University Chicago

Chase Counts

Founder + Principle
Greenbound Consulting LLC

Paul Danielsen

Retired
SolCarib

Chris Daum

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Oasis Montana Inc.

Kenny Davis

Chief Commercial Officer
Resynergi

Pat DeLaquil

President
Clean Energy
Commercialization LLC

Sarah Minczeski Delisle

Founder & President
Kalorama Strategies LLC

Jacalyn Dinhofer

Teacher, Musician
UFT, NYC and AFM 802, NYC

Elizabeth Egan

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Bob Epstein

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Project 2030

Rob Erlichman

Owner
Sunlight Electric

Ariel Fan

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Pamela Fann

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Integrated Solutions

Jonathan Forste

Asset Management
Scout Clean Energy

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Partner
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Daniel Garber

Partner
Fergus Garber Architects

Kathryn Gardow

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Innovector Tech

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Managing Director
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Eric Grunebaum

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Chris Harry
Lead Industrial Design
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Shiela Hingorani
First VP
Morgan Stanley
Hannah James
Owner
Modern Canvas
Edwin Jaros
Executive
Beechwood Realty
Management`
Suparna Kadam
VP Project Development
Brightcore Energy
Michael Kensler
Consultant
K2 Consulting
Anthony Kinslow
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Gemini Energy Solutions
David Kolsrud
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Church Lewis
Managing Director
Atlas Technology Group
Nathan Lewis
President
Share the Light Solar Nonprofit
Development
Genevieve Liang
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power producer
Michael Lischer
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Clean Air Coalition of WNY
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David Rosenheim Executive
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Zeus Aviation
Scott Ryan
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Max Scheder-Bieschin
Chief Financial Officer
Upstream Energy Ventures
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Principal Consultant
Schloss Progressive Consulting
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