



April 14, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
1026 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman, House Appropriations
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee
2186 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman, House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology
2306 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology
2405 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen DeLauro, Kaptur, Bernice Johnson, & Ranking Members Granger, Simpson, and Lucas:

As members of the Clean Energy Business Network working to deploy clean and efficient energy technologies across the United States, we appreciate the support Congress recently provided in Fiscal Year 2022 for critical Department of Energy (DOE) programs.

As Congress moves forward with appropriations legislation for FY23, we urge you to build upon this progress by providing continued robust funding for critical DOE offices that carry out cleantech research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D). We recommend working toward a goal of at least doubling investment in DOE innovation programs by 2025 over recent levels. The President's FY23 budget request of \$11 billion for cleantech RDD&D would achieve this path and position the U.S. to lead in global cleantech innovation.

We were especially encouraged to see Congress approve \$21 billion in funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to establish the new Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations within the Department of Energy. This new office, in combination with the Loan Programs Office, will help the innovative technologies coming out of the DOE innovation pipeline penetrate commercial markets. While this investment was monumental, it doesn't negate the need for sustained, year-on-year increases to all of DOE's innovation activities. We must consider the pipeline of emerging and advanced energy technologies and continue working to shepherd new clean energy innovations to commercialization.

DOE's investment in early-stage and applied research spurs private-sector innovation and facilitates the testing and commercialization of many high-risk, high-reward energy technologies, which have accelerated cost declines across the energy sector over the past few decades. Consumers, businesses,

and taxpayers across America are enjoying the benefits of job creation, lower energy bills, greater reliability, increased domestic investment, and healthier communities.

CEBN also supports enactment of a conference agreement on the Bipartisan Innovation Act that seeks to enhance U.S. competitiveness and national security by bolstering key supply chains across semiconductors and critical minerals and boosting R&D in important sectors. The House and Senate versions of this legislation each contain many important provisions towards the advancement of these goals, which impact the cleantech innovation ecosystem significantly.

One important provision in the House COMPETES Act would [extend funding](#) for the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer programs for 5 years. These programs, which have a decades-long successful track record of commercializing technologies through small businesses, are at risk of losing funding this year if Congress fails to reauthorize the Small Business Administration. It is critical to prevent a disruption to our innovation ecosystem that could impact many small businesses.

Notably, the House version—the America COMPETES Act—contains a regional clean energy innovation program (Sec. 10642) that ensures investments across the innovation ecosystem are made in a geographically diverse fashion. The bill also includes “Energizing Technology Transfer” provisions (Title VI, Subtitle C of America COMPETES) which would support small businesses by boosting access at the National Labs through vouchers and providing support to incubators and accelerators, which serve as important catalysts in the cleantech innovation ecosystem. CEBN is also supportive of a new Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation included in both the House and Senate versions of the bill, which was recommended in a [report to Congress](#) by a nonpartisan advisory committee. Existing foundations at the Department of Agriculture and National Institutes of Health have proven this model can successfully unlock private capital to help accelerate innovation through public-private partnerships.

We encourage lawmakers to include the above provisions in a compromise package and pass this important legislation swiftly.

We also urge Congress to provide clear legislative direction to DOE regarding Congressional intent for the use of appropriated funds. We encourage the Appropriations Committee to include language directing federal agencies to consider ways to make their extramural research and development grants easier to navigate, more accessible, and more impactful for small businesses and to provide DOE with flexibility in allocating Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) funding across program offices.

The [2022 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) produced by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (CEBN’s parent organization) and BloombergNEF highlights just how significant the clean energy economy has become with a record \$105 billion invested into this sector last year. Renewables also had record growth with developers building 37 gigawatts of wind and solar power-generating capacity in 2021. According to the most recent data from the [U.S. Energy and Employment Report](#) (as of 2020), 3.5 million Americans are employed in the sustainable, nuclear and storage energy sectors.

We appreciate Congress’ past support for DOE programs and urge you to stand beside our nation’s entrepreneurs and businesses in building a clean, resilient, and cost-competitive energy system in FY2023 and in pending legislation to support U.S. innovation and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

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