June 26th, 2013

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Mikulski, Shelby, Feinstein, Alexander, Representatives Boehner, Pelosi, Rogers, Lowey, Frelinghuysen, Kaptur:

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees consider funding for the FY 2014 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills, the undersigned organizations, companies, and institutions urge support for continuing funding for Advanced Research
Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E). We are encouraged by the recent Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee markup which approved funding for ARPA-E at the recommended $379 million level for FY 2014. The House funding level of $50 million, approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on June 26th, would severely limit the ability for ARPA-E to execute on its extremely important work on current and future programmatic initiatives. We look forward to working with the House and Senate to help fund and advance this important program.

ARPA-E is conducting critical research necessary to ensure the nation’s future energy security. Modeled after the highly successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), ARPA-E supports “high-risk, high-reward” research that private industry does not sufficiently invest in and that has the potential to drastically alter how we generate, store, and use energy. ARPA-E focuses on energy technologies that can be meaningfully advanced with a small investment over a defined period of time. If a project cannot meet the agreed upon milestones in a timely fashion, ARPA-E will terminate project funding. ARPA-E’s rigorous program design, competitive project selection process, and active program management ensure prudent expenditures.

Since 2009, ARPA-E has funded 285 projects across 33 states, with $770 million in funding. At least seventeen projects have attracted over $450 million in private sector capital after ARPA-E’s initial investment of approximately $70 million. We understand that these are constrained budgetary times, but stable and sustained funding is critical to ensure ARPA-E’s consistent investment of transformative energy projects in ensuring U.S. competitiveness in the energy field.

Cc: Members of the House & Senate Appropriations Committees

Sincerely,

Alloy Ventures
American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE)
Applied Materials, Inc.
ASME
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Birch Tree Capital
Boston University
Breakthrough Institute
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Clean Energy Trust
CMEA Capital
Columbia University
Council for Chemical Research
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders
Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESSC)
Energy Future Coalition
Foro Energy
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
INFINIUM, Inc.
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC)
Johns Hopkins University
Malibu IQ