

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Byron Dorgan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan:

As the Congress works to conclude its consideration of the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, we write to express the strong support of our organizations for the Energy Innovation Hubs proposed by the President for the Department of Energy in his FY 2010 budget. Specifically, we urge Congress to support as many of the proposed eight Hubs as possible in its final bill.

As you know, the Administration requested funding in its FY 2010 budget to support the creation of eight Energy Innovation Hubs focused on overcoming the most significant obstacles to achieving national energy and climate goals. The eight topic Hubs outlined by the Department were:

- Solar Electricity;
- Fuels from Sunlight;
- Batteries and Energy Storage;
- Carbon Capture and Storage;
- Electrical Grid Systems;
- Energy Efficient Building Systems Design;
- Nuclear Fuel Management; and
- Modeling and Simulation for Nuclear Reactors.

We agree with the DOE that the existing structures for research, development and commercialization, alone, are insufficient to quickly produce the advances required in these grand challenge areas to meet our national energy and climate goals. The Hubs are specifically designed to complement and draw upon the work of other DOE programs, such as the Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E).

The Hubs differ from these other programs in their scale (Hubs are much larger), their duration, and their integration of basic and applied science with an impetus for technology development and deployment. The Hubs are designed to create closely coupled communities of research specialists in these eight critical areas. In addition, the Hubs are designed to permit flexibility, and to allow for the quick reallocation of funding and talent within each topic area to pursue new research opportunities or alternatives as soon as they emerge. The concentration of expertise across the full spectrum of R&D performers—including universities, private industry, non-profits, and National Laboratories—and the Hubs' interdisciplinary makeup, will enable their research teams to pursue novel directions in support of specific technology goals.

While we understand that existing funding constraints within the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill might keep the Congress from funding all eight Hubs, we ask that you support as many Hubs in FY 2010 as possible.

We also would like to express our support for the eight topics proposed for Hubs. These topic areas have generated significant interest within the research, academic and industrial communities. We hope that any Hubs not funded in FY2010 will be funded during the FY2011 process.

We sincerely appreciate your work on the FY 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill and hope that you will give our request your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Arizona State University
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Babson Energy & Environmental Club
Battelle
Binghamton University (State University of New York)
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
Case Western Reserve University
Columbia University
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders
Duke University
Federation of Materials Societies
Florida State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Iowa State University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New Mexico State University
The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society
North Texas Energy & Environment Club
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
Oregon State University
Penn State University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Research Triangle Energy Consortium
RTI International
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
The State University of New York System
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Tufts Energy Forum
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Office of the President
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Delaware
University of Georgia
University of Houston System
University of Kansas
The University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of New Hampshire
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh's Center for Energy
University of Southern California
The University of Texas at Austin
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

Cc: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Members of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development