

May 20, 2022

Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Mike Simpson
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy,

As you begin your work on the FY 2023 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, the undersigned organizations urge you to provide a one-time appropriation of \$31.5 million to establish the Department of Energy Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation (FESI).

FESI would fill a critical gap in successfully transitioning new energy technologies into the market and meeting the nation's energy security and climate goals. FESI is consistent with the *Partnerships for Energy Security and Innovation Act* passed by both the Senate in June 2021 as part of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act ([S.1260](#)) and the House in February 2022 as part of the America Competes Act ([H.R. 4863](#)). The creation of FESI will be included in the final innovation package Congress is currently negotiating. The funding recommendation is also consistent with the May 2020 Information Technology and Innovation Foundation report *Mind the Gap: A Design for a New Energy Technology Commercialization Foundation*.

As a nonprofit foundation, the FESI would channel private-sector investments to help support the creation, development and commercialization of next generation energy technologies across the country. FESI would complement the Department of Energy's (DOE) new Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations and the types of clean energy projects proposed in the Energy Infrastructure Act and funded in the Infrastructure and Investments Jobs Act. This type of foundation would help capitalize on the federal government's investments in clean energy research and development by attracting private sector investment and partnership, as well as philanthropic donations. In particular, the FESI would pool resources to support innovative teams from industry, universities, national laboratories, state energy offices and incubators to commercialize new energy technologies. The FESI would leverage its connection to DOE to connect innovators with world-leading facilities, instrumentation, and experts at the 17 DOE national laboratories and DOE-funded research universities and bring to market the most promising energy technologies. A FESI would also help unlock and guide the untapped intellectual property held at DOE-funded national laboratories and research universities beyond just clean energy technologies to a broader portfolio of technologies to address national security, environmental, manufacturing, and other areas of U.S. competitiveness.

We believe that it is time for DOE to have a foundation of its own to support its mission of ensuring America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. Modeled after the successful Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) and other congressionally-mandated agency-affiliated foundations, the FESI would complement DOE investments in cutting-edge research and help bridge the gap between innovative but unproven prototypes and successful commercialization and penetration of new technology into the market.

With a one-time, modest investment of \$31.5 million, the FESI would help accelerate innovation, strengthen the U.S. economy and bolster our global competitiveness as well as provide a new funding stream to help commercialize DOE technologies and improve relationships between the public and private sectors.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to improving America's scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

Activate Global Inc.
ADL Ventures
Algae Biomass Organization
Alliance to Save Energy
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Crystallographic Association
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Plant Biologists
American Sustainable Business Council
Associated Universities, Inc.
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of University Research Parks
AVS – The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces and Processing
Biophysical Society
BPC Action
Broad Reach Growth
BRITE Energy Innovators
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
C2ES
CalCharge
Carbicrete Inc.
Carbon Direct
Carbon Upcycling
The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Clean Energy Business Network
Climate-KIC CA
Confluence Philanthropy
Conservative Coalition for Climate Solutions
Council on Competitiveness
The Council of Scientific Society Presidents
DNV
Ecological Society of America
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
Elemental Excelsior
E-Mission Control
Evergreen Climate Innovations
Federation of American Scientists
FedTech

Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association
Gas Technology Institute
GE Research
Green Connections Media LLC
Greentown Labs, Inc.
GridWise
Health Physics Society
HelioBioSys, Inc.
High Noon Advisors
Huan Nani Partners
Imperative Ventures
Information Technology and Innovation ~~Fundm~~
JLW Advising
JumpStart Inc.
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
MegaJoule Ventures, LLC
Michigan State University
Momentum
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Grid
Nuclear Innovation Alliance
The Ocean Foundation
Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition
Optica (formerly OSA)
Prime Coalition
Purdue University
RFC Enterprises
Social Venture Circle
Stony Brook University
Sutro Energy Group
Third Way
United States Nuclear Industry Council
University of Arizona
US Research Impact Alliance
VentureWell
Washington Maritime Blue
Washington State University
Yale University