

December 19, 2025

Chair Susan Collins  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Tom Cole  
House Committee on Appropriations House  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Vice Chair Patty Murray  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Federal support for energy innovation has long been an area of bipartisan agreement and has helped U.S. companies turn new ideas into practical tools that create economic growth and make our energy system more reliable, more affordable, more secure, and cleaner. As global competition increases and America's rivals move quickly to build the energy industries of the future, continued investment into these efforts is essential. **We respectfully urge Congress to support energy innovation by passing a strong full-year Energy & Water Development appropriations bill before the current Continuing Resolution expires on January 30, 2026.**

The United States has a long record of leading the world in energy innovation. American researchers and businesses were at the forefront of early breakthroughs in electricity, nuclear power, wind and solar energy, hydraulic fracturing, and many other technologies. But other nations have accelerated their own investments, and the U.S. now ranks 13th in energy innovation investments as a share of GDP while China has risen to first place. If we do not continue to support the next generation of energy solutions, we risk falling even further behind, increasing our dependence on rival countries for our energy needs and leaving us vulnerable to disruptions and price volatility.

Maintaining our leadership means ensuring that promising technologies have the support they need across the entire innovation lifecycle, from early-stage research and development to demonstration and ultimately commercialization. Stable, year-to-year federal funding is critical to helping innovators prove out new approaches, improve performance, and attract private investment. This kind of steady support also strengthens U.S. manufacturing, creates jobs in communities across the country, and keeps energy costs stable for families and businesses. Over the past decade, innovation programs at the Department of Energy have played a critical role in reducing the cost of major clean energy technologies.

As Congress continues its work on the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process, you have a key opportunity to reinforce America's competitiveness and energy dominance. Increasing baseline funding for Department of Energy innovation activities will help ensure that the U.S. continues to shape the energy technologies that will define the decades ahead, from long duration energy storage to next-generation geothermal and many others. These investments send a clear message that America intends to lead in the global clean energy marketplace. On the other hand, failure to

pass a strong full-year Energy & Water bill – one that preserves DOE’s core innovation functions and capabilities, and maintains prior-year funding commitments across the RDD&D pipeline – would put American leadership, the benefits of new energy technologies to U.S. workers and families, and our energy security at risk.

We appreciate your past support for energy innovation and your ongoing leadership on these issues. As you craft the remainder of the FY26 funding bills, we respectfully ask that you prioritize the Energy & Water bill for passage before January 30, 2026, so that all Americans can continue to benefit from a strong, affordable, and secure energy system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Third Way  
Clear Path Action  
A.O. Smith  
Alternative Fuels & Chemicals Coalition (AFCC)  
American Cement Association  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy  
American Nuclear Society  
American Physical Society  
Association of American Universities  
Batelle  
Biophysical Society  
BPC Action  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy  
Carbon Capture Coalition  
Carbon Utilization Research Council  
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)  
Clean Air Task Force  
Clean Energy Business Network  
Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA)  
Combined Heat and Power Alliance  
DT Energy Consultants, LLC  
Eavor Inc.  
Energy Sciences Coalition  
Evergreen Climate Innovations  
Framatome Inc.  
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association  
Great Plains Institute  
Industrial Innovation Initiative  
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)  
Kanin Energy  
National Wildlife Federation  
Nuclear Innovation Alliance

Rainey Center Freedom Project  
Redwood Materials  
Southland Industries  
The Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Xcel Energy