

December 19, 2025

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

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

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

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