



November 8, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Leahy and Lowey:

Innovation has been at the heart of America's economic strength for more than seventy years. The combination of entrepreneurial spirit and a world-class research ecosystem has produced new technologies and important competitive advantages that continue to create jobs, enhance our security and improve the lives of Americans every day. Constructive research and development partnerships between the public and private sectors have been especially important in creating the energy abundance we enjoy today. Federally funded energy research, commercialized by the private sector, has a long and storied history of providing enormous returns to taxpayers. As Congress faces the unenviable task of balancing the nation's financial priorities during fiscal year 2018 conference negotiations, we urge the Appropriations Committees to support crucial energy research and development programs at the Department of Energy by providing robust 302(b) allocations for the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees. These programs are key to leveraging America's unique competitive advantages in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

Focused and constructive partnerships between the public and private sectors have been the key to developing new energy technologies and the jobs they create. The development of new energy technologies is capital intensive, faces uncertain regulatory environments and takes place over time-scales that are challenging for most would-be investors. Despite these challenges, we have succeeded in bringing new technologies like nuclear energy, hydraulic fracturing, and renewable energy into the marketplace. A combination of publicly funded research and development and billions in private sector efforts to commercialize energy technologies has transformed domestic and global energy markets, significantly strengthening the U.S. economy and affording us important new geopolitical opportunities.

Yet today, the United States is at risk of ceding this global leadership to other nations at a time when increases in global demand for energy represent trillions in economic opportunity and carry important geopolitical and security implications. More than a billion people around the world still lack access to modern energy services and over the next several decades, billions more will need access to clean, affordable and reliable energy. This opportunity has sparked an intensifying global competition for innovation-driven economic benefits that will accompany global leadership in advanced energy technologies. Other nations, including China, have

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announced large investments to meet this demand and seek to lock in strategic advantages that will be difficult for the U.S. to compete with if we do not make investments in energy innovation a priority. Programs like ARPA-E, which focus on solving big problems with game changing technologies, are key to maintaining U.S. competitive advantages in the rapidly evolving race to develop new energy technologies.

Ensuring America stays at the forefront of global energy technology research is both an economic and security imperative. Decisions about federal investments in energy innovation that are made today will set the stage for years to come. We commend the Committees for their long-standing commitments to support these programs which are vital to American prosperity. Robust funding for energy innovation at such a pivotal moment would support long-term American competitiveness in one of the world's fastest growing markets and should be prioritized.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor R. Abate".

Victor R. Abate
SVP & Chief Technology Officer, GE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norm Augustine".

Norm Augustine
Retired Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin; Former Undersecretary of the Army

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda M. Austin".

Dr. Wanda M. Austin
Former CEO and President, The Aerospace Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Doerr".

John Doerr
Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Donohue".

Thomas J. Donohue
President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Faison".

Jay Faison
Founder and CEO, ClearPath Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Fanning".

Tom Fanning
Chairman, President and CEO, Southern Company

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Graff".

Michael Graff
Chairman and CEO, American Air Liquide Holdings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Holliday".

Chad Holliday
Retired Chairman and CEO, DuPont

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria G. Korsnick".

Maria G. Korsnick
President and Chief Executive Officer, Nuclear Energy Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Skelly".

Michael Skelly
President, Clean Line Energy