

June 21, 2017

Chairman Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

The United States is facing strong international competition in the development of advanced energy technologies that are cleaner, cheaper, and more versatile than the current system of commercially available technologies. While American innovators have a long history of developing and improving energy technologies, it is essential that the nation maintains its competitiveness. Energy innovation fosters new and lucrative domestic industries, creates millions of well-paying American jobs, and improves energy security, while expanding the nation's global influence.

American historical leadership in this area is unparalleled, but it is not guaranteed. In recent years, other nations have invested aggressively in the global clean-energy technology market. A recent report from the Boston Consulting Group¹ revealed that China recently surpassed the U.S. in late-stage research and development support, and is continuing to accelerate these types of activities. If steps are not taken to bolster U.S. leadership in this sector, the nation could eventually need to import energy technologies from China, rather than domestically manufacture them and export them across the world.

One major advantage that the U.S. maintains over all other nations is the Department of Energy (DOE). The 17 world-class DOE-supported national energy laboratories, as well as the nation's premier research universities and private research facilities, constitute the most comprehensive energy research and development network of its kind. Since its inception, the DOE has helped produce some of the most impactful technological advances of the modern era in energy, engineering, materials science, computing, physics, health sciences and more. Renewing the federal commitment to this R&D network is essential to ensuring American innovators stay ahead of the global competition.

R&D in this network must have ambitious "moonshot" technology development goals to define research programs. Part of that renewal must also be focused commitment towards the development and deployment of the next generation of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies. These goals can be used to focus research and provide an investment signal to American businesses.

In May of this year, Congress passed a bipartisan Fiscal Year 2017 Energy and Water appropriations bill that clearly recognized the importance of a well-funded Department of Energy. As you develop FY2018 funding levels for DOE and all of its offices, we respectfully request that you establish focused, strategic goals for DOE programs, as well as provide the Department the resources necessary to meet these ambitious benchmarks. These measures are essential to a strong domestic economy, energy security, the development and deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies throughout our economy, and maintaining global leadership in energy innovation.

¹ [An Innovation-Led Boost for US Manufacturing](#), BCG

Sincerely,

Third Way

ClearPath Action

Energy Sciences Coalition

BPC Action

Natural Resources Defense Council

Southern States Energy Board

Carbon Utilization Research Council

Nuclear Energy Institute

American Council on Capital Formation

University of Tennessee System

Association of American Universities

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions

Union of Concerned Scientists

University of California System

Clean Air Task Force

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

SSTI

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

LACI

Tech-X

American Chemical Society

Washington State University

Advanced Biofuels Business Council

Alliance for Industrial Efficiency