



April 9, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1026 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Members Leahy and Granger:

Thank you for your leadership and service to the nation during this challenging time. As you consider your FY 2021 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we are writing to express our strong support for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Advanced Research Programs Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and encourage you to continue, at a minimum, current funding levels in the next fiscal year.

At a time when global competitors are increasing research and development for renewable energy technologies, the Administration has proposed cutting more than \$2.5 billion from programs supporting energy innovation and deployment, a 77 percent decrease from current funding levels. The proposed budget includes a \$2.06 billion (74 percent) cut to EERE and the elimination of ARPA-E. We believe that these cuts would jeopardize America's leadership in cutting-edge research on clean energy technologies and harm our country's overall competitiveness in a rapidly growing global industry that presents a multi-trillion-dollar business opportunity.

Investments made through EERE have contributed to increased clean energy output, improved grid reliability and resiliency, decreased deployment barriers, and reduced costs, among other benefits. ARPA-E has provided critical financial support to early-stage projects in the energy sector. Since 2009, 145 ARPA-E projects spanning an array of technologies have secured more than \$2.9 billion in private sector investment. NREL's authoritative assessments and analyses have generated over 700 patents, and improved the productivity and reduced the cost of wind turbines, solar panels, geothermal systems, hydropower and pumped storage, marine energy and hydrokinetics, biofuels, electric vehicles and energy storage systems.

The work done by EERE, ARPA-E and NREL fills a critical gap in research and development at a time when the United States is desperately in need of grid modernization, and at risk of falling behind other countries, like China, that are racing to develop the next generation of energy technologies. We respectfully urge you to continue, at a minimum, current funding levels for these important clean energy innovation programs, and to oppose the Administration's proposed cuts to the Department of Energy's FY 2021 Budget.

Please feel free to contact us for additional information, or if we can be of help in any way.

Sincerely,

American Council on Renewable Energy  
Advanced Energy Economy  
American Wind Energy Association  
Biomass Power Association  
Energy Storage Association  
Geothermal Resources Council  
National Hydropower Association  
Solar Energy Industries Association

cc: The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman, Energy and Water Development  
Subcommittee, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Development  
Subcommittee, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Chairwoman, Energy and Water Development, and  
Related Agencies Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Mike Simpson, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Development, and  
Related Agencies Subcommittee, House Appropriations Committee