

June 9, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Patrick Leahy  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chairman Richard Shelby  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Leahy, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

Major breakthroughs in clean energy technologies have long been driven by public investment in research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D). This is no small feat; the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has invested billions of dollars each year to support the commercialization of innovative technologies. DOE's historical investments have led to the creation and growth of industries like nuclear energy, solar energy, and gas. To capitalize on this record of success and to provide opportunities for American workers, boost the U.S. economy, export American innovation, and reduce carbon emissions, **Congress should appropriate significant, targeted increases for DOE innovation activities in FY23.**

Congress has wisely provided consistent annual funding increases for RDD&D activities at DOE in recent years, appropriating major boosts to innovation programs between FY21 and FY22. Targeting funding in a manner focused on innovation opportunities helps the U.S. compete with countries like Russia and China. Because of this consistent attention to funding along with recent legislative actions to jump-start our clean energy innovation ecosystem, U.S. clean energy RDD&D funding is currently growing at the rate recommended by reports such as *Energizing America*<sup>1</sup> and *Accelerating Decarbonization of the U.S.*

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<sup>1</sup> Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy, "Energizing America," 2020.  
[https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploads/EnergizingAmerica\\_FINAL\\_DIGITAL.pdf](https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/file-uploads/EnergizingAmerica_FINAL_DIGITAL.pdf)

*Energy System*,<sup>2</sup> namely, to double our energy innovation investments by 2025 and triple them by 2030. These increases in innovation funding are necessary to bring more clean energy technologies to market at a lower cost to consumers, reclaim US leadership in the clean energy supply chain, and reduce the overall cost of decarbonizing our economy.<sup>3</sup> Doing so allows us to advance even more energy technologies, setting our nation up for future domestic energy industry growth and weaning our economy off of volatile foreign oil markets and autocrats.

However, continued and growing support for DOE's innovation work is necessary to remain on this ambitious and critical path. In order to reach our mid-century carbon emissions goals, we will need to build clean energy at more than twice the rate we have previously.<sup>4</sup> We must increase funding for innovation activities across the board to ensure an on-ramp for emerging technologies and continued success of landmark new programs in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). IIJA provides significant investment for late-stage technology demonstrations and the maintenance and buildout of critical energy infrastructure. While this will drive scale-up and deployment of advanced clean energy technologies, we must pay equal attention to preparing newer technologies to take advantage of these resources. Consider the pipeline of clean energy technologies moving through the commercialization process: robust funding for basic research and small-scale pilots can prepare nascent technologies to take advantage of large-scale demonstration and deployment funding in the future. Rather than rest on our laurels, now is the time to push the clean energy economy to its full potential with robust and sustained investments in all stages of the innovation lifecycle.

Your leadership has been crucial to tackling the challenge of growing our innovation ecosystem and decarbonizing in a cost-effective manner. **We ask that you continue this commitment by providing DOE's innovation activities, from basic R&D to late-stage demonstration and deployment, with a significant and targeted increase in FY23 over FY22 levels.** Investments in clean energy innovation are worth it: they advance new industries, create American jobs, and reduce the cost of transitioning to net-zero carbon emissions. Congress has a chance to complement recent historic investments and continue to support our clean energy economy this year and in the future. We thank you for your continued support of innovation programs at the Department of Energy and hope they will be prioritized as negotiations on the FY23 Appropriations process begin.

Sincerely,  
Third Way  
ClearPath Action  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
BPC Action  
Environmental Defense Fund  
National Wildlife Federation

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<sup>2</sup> National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. Accelerating Decarbonization of the U.S. Energy System. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25932>.

<sup>3</sup> Decarb America, "Clean Energy Innovation Breakthroughs," 2021. <https://decarbamerica.org/report/clean-energy-innovation-breakthroughs/>

<sup>4</sup> Decarb America "Infrastructure Needs for a Net-Zero Economy," 2021. <https://decarbamerica.org/report/energy-infrastructure-needs-for-a-net-zero-economy/>

Clean Air Task Force  
Clean Energy Business Network  
Battelle  
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation  
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions  
United States Chamber of Commerce  
Advanced Biofuels Business Council  
Algae Biomass Organization  
Alternative Fuels and Chemicals Coalition  
American Clean Power Association  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations  
American Nuclear Society  
American Public Power Association  
Biomass Power Association  
Carbon Capture Coalition  
Carbon Engineering  
Carbon GeoCapture  
Carbon Utilization Research Council  
Carbon180  
Cemvita Factory, Inc.  
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
Chart Industries, Inc.  
Clean Energy Buyers Association  
Clean Hydrogen Future Coalition  
ConservAmerica Action  
Covanta Energy  
Data for Progress  
Edison Electric Institute  
Enel North America  
Evergreen Climate Innovations  
Framatome Inc.  
Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association  
Geothermal Rising  
Good Energy Collective  
Great Plains Institute  
Highly Innovative Fuels USA  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
Lanzatech  
National Ocean Industries Association  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Nuclear Innovation Alliance  
Rainey Center Freedom Project  
Renewable Thermal Collaborative  
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce

Rochester Institute of Technology  
State Science and Technology Institute  
Sustainable Energy Solutions  
Svante Technologies Inc.  
Technet  
The Nature Conservancy