

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chair  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chair  
Energy and Water Development and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Development and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

February 17, 2022

Dear Chair Feinstein, Chair Kaptur, Ranking Member Kennedy, and Ranking Member Simpson:

As the Appropriations Committees finalize a Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus appropriations bill within the constraints of the bipartisan framework agreement, our diverse set of organizations are writing to urge you to prioritize funding clean energy innovation programs at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In particular, we want to emphasize the importance of continuing to expand support for DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE).

DOE's leadership in energy innovation over the past few decades has helped spawn new and lucrative domestic industries, created millions of jobs here in the United States, increased our energy security, driven down costs for consumers, and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and other harmful pollutants. According to various [impact evaluation studies](#), DOE's innovation investments have had a benefit-to-cost ratio of 33 to 1 and generated billions of dollars of net economic benefits for the United States.

While these are impressive returns on investment, there is still enormous untapped potential to create new economic opportunities through cultivating the nascent technologies that can help curb greenhouse gas emissions to the level needed to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change – all while reducing pollution and addressing environmental justice. Many other countries have recognized the tremendous advantages that flow to those who can lead the global clean energy market and have raced to increase the scale and scope of their clean energy innovation investments accordingly. In contrast, the United States has started to [fall behind](#) because it has not done the same: The share of cleantech patents granted to U.S. companies by the U.S. Patent and Trade Office [declined](#) from roughly 50 percent in 2001 to less than 40 percent in 2016, which is a concrete indication that American leadership in clean energy innovation is truly waning and in need of a jolt. A recent [National Academies report](#) calls for a tripling of federal investment in clean energy research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) at DOE over the next ten years in order to provide new technology options, reduce costs for existing options, and better understand how to manage a socially-just energy transition to a fully decarbonized economy.

EERE has a central role to play in developing and commercializing the clean energy technologies of tomorrow. EERE's RD&D activities span multiple critical industries and technologies — including sustainable transportation, advanced manufacturing, industrial decarbonization, building technologies, renewable energy, low-carbon fuels, and hydrogen — and are critical to driving innovation and job creation across the economy. At a time when the imperative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is more apparent than ever, we urge the Committees to continue to expand support for this critical office by substantially growing its funding over the next five years.

The impact of federal investments in clean energy RD&D are distributed all throughout the country. DOE's budget funds activities in all 50 states, drawing upon the unparalleled skills, expertise, and resources of our national laboratories, universities, and private research facilities across the United States. It also supports partnerships with innovators in the private sector to test and demonstrate new technologies. This network ensures that every part of the country has an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the breakthroughs in clean energy technologies that are supported by federal investments.

We appreciate your leadership in securing robust funding for clean energy innovation in the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations process. As you and your colleagues finalize Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations for Energy and Water Development, we respectfully request your support for continued growth in appropriations for DOE's applied energy programs overall and EERE specifically to ensure ongoing American leadership in clean energy innovation. We cannot afford to take a step back or even to stagnate when the stakes and the potential rewards are so high.

Sincerely,

Clean Energy Business Network  
E4TheFuture  
Earthjustice  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Evergreen Action  
Federal Performance Contracting Coalition (FPCC)  
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation  
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)  
League of Conservation Voters  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
National Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NW Energy Coalition  
Sierra Club  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project  
The Building Performance Association  
Third Way  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
U.S. Green Building Council