April 10, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee
184 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
House Energy & Water Subcommittee
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Energy & Water Subcommittee
184 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Energy & Water Subcommittee
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur,

As diverse organizations interested in the Department of Energy’s Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) program, we thank you for the significant funding for this vital program in the recently enacted Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus. ARPA-E plays a unique and critical role in maintaining America’s global leadership in energy technologies. As you begin drafting the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations bills, the undersigned organizations, companies and institutions urge you to support our competitiveness and energy security by funding ARPA-E in the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bill at least at $375 million.

ARPA-E is a highly innovative and effective program which enjoys strong bipartisan congressional support. Since its inception, ARPA-E has successfully sponsored a dynamic range of research, including technologies with potentially profound benefits for the nation’s future energy security. Modeled after the highly successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), ARPA-E supports “high-risk, high-reward” research which has the potential to drastically alter how we make and use energy in the future. The program utilizes a unique and highly successful selection process to identify innovative technologies, pushes them to meet aggressive milestones and helps them to cross the valley of death so the private sector can then commercialize them.

Despite being less than a decade old, ARPA-E is already fostering groundbreaking technological innovations in energy storage, advanced nuclear, and carbon capture and sequestration. In its nearly 10-year history, 136 of more than 340 completed projects supported by ARPA-E have attracted over $2.6 billion in private sector follow-on funding, and 71 projects have gone on to form new companies. The enthusiasm for ARPA-E’s vision and quality of work is evidenced by its ability to repeatedly draw more than 2,000 entrepreneurs, state and federal government officials, state and federal agencies and large numbers of investors to its annual Energy Innovation Summit.

The importance of U.S. leadership in energy technologies to our economic and energy security makes ARPA-E a tremendous competitive advantage for our nation. Stable and sustained funding growth is necessary to ensure this successful program continues to spearhead America’s energy research.
Sincerely,

Achates Power
American Chemical Society
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF)
American Geophysical Union
American Society of Agronomy
American Superconductor Corporation
ASME
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
BASF Corporation
Bettergy Corp.
BPC Action
Brayton Energy
Canvas
Center for Carbon Removal
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)
Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions
Clean Energy Business Network
Clean Energy Trust
Cleantech Alliance
ClearPath Action
Crop Science Society of America
Dioxide Materials
Duke University
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
Elemental Excelerator, Inc.
Energy Technology Savings, Inc.
Fireplace Editions
G2VP
Gas Technology Institute
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gnosys, Inc.
Greentown Labs
Gulf Coast Green Energy
Industrial Microbes
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
Johnson Controls
Kegotank Farm
Marine BioEnergy, Inc.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
NAATBatt International
Natron Energy, Inc.
NECEC: Northeast Clean Energy Council
Newton Energy Group LLC
Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)
Onboard Dynamics, Inc.
Oregon BEST
OSA-The Optical Society
Otherlab
Penn State University
Powerhouse
Prelude Ventures
Prospect Silicon Valley
ProsumerGrid, Inc.
RedWave Energy, Inc.
SAFCell
SixPoint Materials, Inc.
SLIPS Technologies Inc.
Sloane, Offer, Weber and Dern, LLP
Soil Science Society of America
Solar Turbines Incorporated
Spruce Capital Partners
SSTI
Starfire Energy
Stony Brook University
Swift Coat, Inc.
TechNet
Tenley Consulting
TerraShares
The Texas A&M University System
Third Way
Union of Concerned Scientists
University of California System
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Houston System
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Oregon
University of Rochester
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Urban Future Lab/ ACRE Incubator
Vanderbilt University
Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering, Harvard University

Cc:

Senate Majority Leader McConnell
Senate Democratic Leader Schumer
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Thad Cochran
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Patrick Leahy

House Speaker Ryan

House Democratic Leader Pelosi

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Nita Lowey