



Norman Augustine • Ursula Burns • John Doerr • Bill Gates • Charles Holliday • Jeff Immelt • Tom Linebarger

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
Chairman  
Research and Technology Subcommittee  
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel Lipinski  
Ranking Member  
Research and Technology Subcommittee  
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Collins  
Research and Technology Subcommittee  
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee  
2321 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bucshon and Ranking Member Lipinski and Representative Collins:

On behalf of the American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC), I want to thank you for working to enhance technology innovation, including clean energy innovation. The Subcommittee's discussion draft of "Innovative Approaches to Technology Transfer Act of 2013" would drive future U.S. economic growth and enhance U.S. competitiveness in energy science and technology by rewarding new ways to leverage public investments in energy R&D. Your leadership in highlighting the value of federally-funded research and advocating for more effective technology transfer is much needed and greatly appreciated.

AEIC is a group of America's top business executives who came together to recommend ways to promote American innovation in clean energy technology. We are united in our belief that technology innovation—especially in energy—is critical to solving the many economic, national security, competitiveness, and environmental challenges facing our nation. We strongly support robust, public investments in innovative energy technologies, and we believe that efforts to transfer federally-funded research and technology to the marketplace must improve in order to bolster both our country's energy innovation system and our long-term economic competitiveness.

By proposing to authorize federal agencies to direct extramural research budgets to proof-of-concept and other technology transfer initiatives, you are helping universities, research institutions, and national laboratories devise novel ways to translate findings into commercial products and services. This is particularly important for the U.S. Department of Energy and the national laboratories, whose science and R&D activities have been a critical part of clean energy technology innovation. AEIC staff research has found that the national laboratories have had major past successes in using grants for proof-of-concept and small-business technology transfer, such as in low-emissivity window technologies. We endorse these efforts, as they recognize and realize the value of federally-funded basic science and technology R&D.

My colleagues and I recognize that all federal dollars must be spent wisely to achieve the maximum impact. Funding to accelerate the commercialization of energy technology R&D is a smart investment for America's future. We thank you for your continued emphasis on leveraging public investments in science and technology to keep the U.S. economy competitive and growing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Holliday".

Chad Holliday  
Chair, American Energy Innovation Council