



July 23, 2014

Speaker John Boehner
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Representative Smith, and Representative Johnson:

On behalf of the American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC), we wish to thank you for underscoring the importance of technological innovation in economic growth and international competitiveness through *H.R. 5120 Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act*. We endorse your bipartisan efforts to strengthen the American innovation ecosystem and increase the economic return from public investments in science and R&D.

The AEIC is a group of America's top business executives who came together starting in 2010 to recommend ways to promote American innovation in clean energy technology. We are united in our belief that technology innovation—especially in energy—is at the heart of many of the central economic, national security, competitiveness, and environmental challenges facing our nation. We believe strong support for robust, public investments in energy innovation is critical to a vibrant American economy.

We support efforts to increase the return on public investment in science and R&D. Our [case studies](#) illustrate how investments in science and R&D have resulted in market-changing energy technologies. In these cases, public-private partnerships have demonstrated value not only by guiding public investments to more productive activities, but also ensuring that lab discoveries become useful, commercial goods and services. Ultimately, the U.S. will better realize the value of its public innovation investments when they are partnered with robust private investment.

H.R. 5120 gives the National Labs needed flexibility to enter into more effective partnerships with businesses and universities, particularly with respect to early-stage technology demonstration. We



anticipate that H.R. 5120 will unlock more private investment in clean energy technology R&D, and we endorse this bill.

Accelerating technology innovation is a smart investment for America's future. We thank you for your bipartisan emphasis on public investments in science and R&D to keep the U.S. economy competitive and growing.

Sincerely,

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

Chad Holliday
Co-Chair
American Energy Innovation Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Norm Augustine'.

Norm Augustine
Co-Chair
American Energy Innovation Council