



1225 Eye Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington DC 20005
americanenergyinnovation.org

February 24, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leaders McConnell, Reid and Pelosi:

We write today to urge your review and consideration of the American Energy Innovation Council's enclosed report, "[Restoring American Energy Innovation Leadership: Report Card, Challenges, and Opportunities.](#)"

We are issuing this report as part of our service on the American Energy Innovation Council (www.americanenergyinnovation.org). AEIC is a coalition of business leaders who joined together in 2010 because of our concern about America's underinvestment in clean energy research.

That America is today enjoying a respite from the days of energy scarcity can be attributed in part to federally-funded technology research, development and demonstration (RD&D) that occurred many years ago. Those investments supported vital private sector entrepreneurs and created dozens of technologies, such as those used in shale gas production today. These technologies have been important to our economic growth and competitiveness. We urge you to review [the case studies available on our website.](#)

Unfortunately, if recent trends continue, future entrepreneurs will not have the benefit of such robust public investments in RD&D. Since 2010, support for government energy RD&D has languished with appropriations remaining depressed when adjusted for inflation. While we understand the need to address our national debt, investing in innovation is an investment in future economic growth.

Even amid today's abundance, America's energy challenges are more critical than ever. Energy costs are too high for many households and businesses; environmental concerns related to energy production continue to grow; and our electricity system faces physical and cyber threats. Geopolitical threats like climate change, global energy market volatility, and international competition for energy resources are increasingly ominous.

The fundamental finding of our report is this: the scale of federal energy RD&D investment is still just a fraction of what is necessary. The United States must commit to greater – and smarter – investments in energy technology now to capture its remarkable energy promise and deal with the pressing competitiveness, security, and environmental challenges.



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We hope that you find this report useful. It is available at: <http://americanenergyinnovation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/AEIC-Restoring-American-Energy-Innovation-Leadership-2015.pdf>.

We look forward to working with you to promote energy innovation.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Norman Augustine in black ink.

Norman Augustine
Retired Chairman and CEO,
Lockheed Martin

Handwritten signature of John Doerr in black ink.

John Doerr
Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield &
Byers

Handwritten signature of Bill Gates in black ink.

Bill Gates
Co-Chair, Bill and Melinda Gates
Foundation

Handwritten signature of Chad Holliday in black ink.

Chad Holliday
Retired Chairman and CEO,
DuPont

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey Immelt in black ink.

Jeffrey Immelt
Chairman and CEO, General
Electric

Handwritten signature of Tom Linebarger in black ink.

Tom Linebarger
Chairman and CEO, Cummins