



Principals

Norman Augustine

Former Chairman and CEO, Lockheed Martin

Dr. Wanda M. Austin

Former CEO and President, The Aerospace Corporation

Neal Blue

Chairman and CEO, General Atomics

Mark Burns

President, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation

John Doerr

Partner, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers

Jay Faizon

Founder, ClearPath

Thomas A. Fanning

Chairman, President, and CEO, Southern Company

Thomas F. Farrell, II

Chairman, President, and CEO, Dominion Energy

Ben Fowke

Chairman, President, and CEO, Xcel Energy

Bill Gates

Co-Chairman, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Mike Graff

Chairman and CEO, American Air Liquide Holdings

Chad Holliday

Chairman, Royal Dutch Shell

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

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

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

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

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

Innovation has been at the heart of America's economic strength over the last seventy years. The combination of entrepreneurial spirit and a world-class research ecosystem has produced new technologies and important competitive advantages that continue to create jobs, enhance our security, improve the lives of Americans every day, and provide cleaner energy. Constructive research and development partnerships between the public and private sectors have been especially important in creating the energy abundance we enjoy today. Federally funded energy research, commercialized by the private sector, has a long and storied history of providing enormous returns to taxpayers. As Congress faces the unenviable task of balancing the nation's financial priorities, we urge the Appropriations Committees to fully support crucial energy research and development programs at the Department of Energy. These programs are key to leveraging America's unique competitive advantages in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

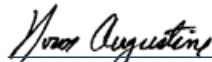
Focused and constructive partnerships between the public and private sectors have been the key to developing new energy technologies and the jobs they create. The development of new energy technologies is capital intensive, faces uncertain regulatory environments and takes place over time-scales that are challenging for most would-be investors. Despite these challenges, we have succeeded in bringing new technologies like electric vehicles, nuclear energy, hydraulic fracturing, low-carbon transportation fuels like hydrogen and renewable energy into the marketplace. A combination of publicly funded research and development and billions in private sector efforts to commercialize energy technologies has transformed domestic and global energy markets, significantly strengthening the U.S. economy and affording us important new geopolitical opportunities.




Yet today, the United States is at risk of ceding this global leadership to other nations at a time when increases in global demand for energy represent trillions in economic opportunity and carry important geopolitical and security implications. More than a billion people around the world still lack access to modern energy services and over the next several decades, billions more will need access to clean, affordable and reliable energy. This opportunity has sparked an intensifying global competition for innovation-driven economic benefits that will accompany global leadership in advanced energy technologies. Other nations, including China, have announced large investments to meet this demand and seek to lock in strategic advantages that will be difficult to overturn. DOE's offices like the Advanced Manufacturing Office, the Solar Energy Technology Office and ARPA-E are key to accelerating the development of new energy technologies and will be critical to our long-term competitiveness.


Ensuring America stays at the forefront of global energy technology research is both an economic and security imperative. Decisions about federal investments in energy innovation that are made today will set the stage for years to come. We commend the Committees for their long-standing commitments to support programs such as these which are vital to American prosperity. Robust funding for energy innovation at such a pivotal moment would support long-term American competitiveness in one of the world's fastest growing markets and should be prioritized.

Thank you,



Norman Augustine


Dr. Wanda M. Austin


Neal Blue


Jay Faison


Thomas A. Fanning


Thomas F. Farrell, II


Ben Fowke


Mike Graff


Chad Holliday