Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Chairwoman Johnson, and Ranking Member Lucas,

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for creating a Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation (FESI). FESI would fill a critical gap in successfully transitioning new energy technologies into the market and meeting the nation’s energy security and climate goals. As you prepare a spending package through the reconciliation process, we ask that you include $30 million to establish FESI in line with the Partnerships for Energy Security and Innovation Act passed by the Senate as a bipartisan amendment to the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (S.1260) in June. A companion bipartisan bill, H.R. 4863, was introduced in the House in July.

The FESI was originally proposed in the bipartisan and bicameral IMPACT for Energy Act (S. 2005 and its companion bill H.R. 3575 of the 116th Congress) and passed the House of Representatives in H.R. 4447 last year. We urge you to authorize and fund the FESI consistent with the leading recommendations from the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation in its May 2020 report Mind the Gap: A Design for a New Energy Technology Commercialization Foundation and the National Academy of Public Administration’s report, An Innovation Foundation for DOE: Roles and Opportunities, requested in the FY 2020 omnibus appropriations bill.

As a nonprofit foundation, the FESI would channel private-sector investments to help support the creation, development and commercialization of next generation energy technologies across the country. FESI would complement the Department of Energy’s (DOE) new Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations and the types of clean energy projects proposed in the Energy Infrastructure Act and funded in the Senate-passed Infrastructure and Investments Jobs Act. This type of foundation would help capitalize on the federal government’s investments in clean energy research and development by attracting private sector investment and partnership, as well as philanthropic donations. In particular, the FESI would pool resources to support innovative teams from industry, universities, national laboratories, state energy offices and incubators to commercialize new energy technologies. The FESI would leverage its connection to DOE to connect innovators with world-leading facilities, instrumentation, and experts at the 17 DOE national laboratories and DOE-funded research universities and bring to market the most promising energy technologies. A FESI would also help unlock and guide the untapped intellectual property held at DOE-funded national laboratories and research universities.
We believe that it is time for DOE to have a foundation of its own to support its mission of ensuring America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. Modeled after the successful Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) and other congressionally-mandated agency-affiliated foundations, the FESI would complement DOE investments in cutting-edge research and help bridge the gap between innovative but unproven prototypes and successful commercialization and penetration of new technology into the market.

With a one-time, modest investment of $30 million, the FESI would help accelerate innovation, strengthen the U.S. economy and bolster our global competitiveness as well as provide a new funding stream to help commercialize DOE technologies and improve relationships between the public and private sectors.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to improving America’s scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

Activate Global Inc.  
ADL Ventures  
Algae Biomass Organization  
Alliance to Save Energy  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Astronomical Society  
American Chemical Society  
American Crystallographic Association  
American Physical Society  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Associated Universities, Inc.  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of University Research Parks  
AVS – The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces and Processing  
Biophysical Society  
Broad Reach Growth  
BRITE Energy Innovators  
C2ES  
CalCharge  
Carbicrete Inc.  
Carbon Direct  
Carbon Upcycling  
The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions  
Clean Energy Business Network  
Clean Energy Trust  
Climate-KIC CA  
Confluence Philanthropy  
Council on Competitiveness  
The Council of Scientific Society Presidents  
DNV  
Federation of American Scientists  
FedTech  
Gas Technology Institute  
GE Research  
Green Connections  
Radio  
Greentown Labs, Inc.  
GridWise  
HelioBioSys, Inc.  
High Noon Advisors  
Imperative Ventures  
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
JLW Advising
JumpStart Inc.
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
MegaJoule Ventures, LLC
Momentum
National Association of State Energy
Officials
Nuclear Innovation
Alliance
The Ocean Foundation
Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition
OSA—The Optical Society
Prime Coalition
Purdue University
RFC Enterprises
Social Venture Circle
Stony Brook University
Sutro Energy Group
Third Way
United States Nuclear Industry Council
US Research Impact Alliance
VentureWell
Washington Maritime Blue
Washington State University
Yale University