

August 30, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-221 Capitol Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Joe Manchin III  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy and  
Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Manchin, and Ranking Member Barrasso,

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.	Carbicarete Inc.
ADL Ventures	Carbon Direct
Algae Biomass Organization	Carbon Upcycling
Alliance to Save Energy	The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
American Association of Physicists in Medicine	Clean Energy Business Network
American Association of Physics Teachers	Clean Energy Trust
American Astronomical Society	Climate-KIC CA
American Chemical Society	Confluence Philanthropy
American Crystallographic Association	Council on Competitiveness
American Physical Society	The Council of Scientific Society Presidents
American Society for Engineering Education	DNV
American Society of Plant Biologists	Federation of American Scientists
American Sustainable Business Council	FedTech
Associated Universities, Inc.	Gas Technology Institute
Association of American Universities	GE Research
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	Green Connections Radio
Association of University Research Parks	Greentown Labs, Inc.
AVS – The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces and Processing	GridWise
Biophysical Society	HelioBioSys, Inc.
Broad Reach Growth	High Noon Advisors
BRITE Energy Innovators	Imperative Ventures
C2ES	Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
CalCharge	

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