

April 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 want to express strong support for creating a Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation (FESI), which 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 to advance an infrastructure package or an American competitiveness/innovation package, we ask that you include the creation of the FESI in line with the *Partnerships for Energy Security and Innovation Act* introduced by Senators Coons, Graham, and Luján on April 22, 2021. The FESI was originally proposed in the *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 recently released *An Innovation Foundation for DOE: Roles and Opportunities*, by the National Academy of Public Administration.

The United States is a world leader in discovery science and early-stage research, but it still faces significant challenges and barriers in moving new energy technologies from discovery to commercialization and deployment. This gap in the nation's energy innovation ecosystem will stall progress in meeting decarbonization goals, creating the jobs of the future, and maintaining U.S. competitive advantage relative to China and other countries aggressively pursuing market share in new energy technologies.

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. 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. Given today's complex energy challenges and growing international competition, viable solutions often require multiple partners in both the public and private sectors.

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 the Department of Energy (DOE) to connect innovators with world-leading facilities, instrumentation, and experts at the 17 DOE national laboratories and DOE-funded research universities. The FESI's mission would be to bring to market the most promising energy technologies, while DOE can continue to focus on innovative research, development, and early demonstration activities as well as building and maintaining national lab scientific infrastructure. 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. Since it began its work in 1996, FNIH has raised more than \$1 billion dollars for the agency. Additionally, the Veterans Administration, Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Departments of Defense and Agriculture also receive support from foundations that were established by Congress.

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the success of this model. The CDC Foundation has received \$240 million in commitments from donors since the beginning of the pandemic. It continues to provide on the ground support to communities, it launched a campaign targeted at Black Americans, and emphasizes the critical need to wear a mask. To accelerate the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, FNIH helped coordinate efforts between NIH and the private sector to leverage existing biomedical resources to find the most promising vaccines and treatments and move them into clinical trials. The FESI could do the same to help the country transition to a clean energy economy and address another global challenge—climate change.

By providing a new potential funding stream for research and improving relationships between the public and private sectors, the FESI would help accelerate innovation, strengthen the U.S. economy and bolster our global competitiveness.

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
BPC Action

BRITE Energy Innovators
C2ES
CalCharge
Carbicrete Inc.
Carbon Upcycling
The Center for Climate and Energy
Solutions
Clean Energy Business Network
Clean Energy Trust
Climate-KIC CA
Confluence Philanthropy
The Council of Scientific Society
Presidents
DNV
Federation of American Scientists
FedTech
Gas Technology Institute
GE Research
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
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