The American Energy Innovation Council Applauds Senate Appropriations Leadership for Prioritizing Clean Energy in Recent Legislation

U.S. COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCED BY CONTINUED FUNDING OF ARPA-E AND THE OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chad Holliday co-chairs the Bipartisan Policy Center’s (BPC) American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC) and is pleased to support Senators Feinstein and Alexander’s commitment to research and development. The full text of his letter to them can be found below. The council released a series of case studies earlier this year, which provide examples of the effects of government investment in technology.

June 27, 2013

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee
Room S 128, United States Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee
Room S 128, United States Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Alexander:

On behalf of the American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC), I want to thank you for prioritizing clean energy innovation programs in the Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations legislation. The Subcommittee’s recently submitted FY2014 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill enhances U.S. competitiveness in energy science and technology by sustaining public investments in R&D that will drive future U.S. economic growth. Your leadership in advocating for consistent funding levels for ARPA-E, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), and other energy innovation investments is much needed and greatly appreciated.

The AEIC is a group of America’s top business executives who came together to recommend ways to promote American innovation in clean energy technology. We are united in our belief that technology innovation—especially in energy—is critical to solving the many economic, national security, competitiveness, and environmental challenges facing our nation. We strongly support robust, public investments in innovative energy technologies, and believe that funding for programs such as ARPA-E
and EERE must continue in order to bolster our country’s energy innovation system and our long-term economic competitiveness.

By proposing to fund ARPA-E at $379 million, you are demonstrating a commitment to an entrepreneurial and outcome-oriented approach to developing breakthrough technologies. ARPA-E provides resources and takes risks in areas the private sector simply cannot, and its widely-lauded approach to R&D is now being replicated in other offices like EERE. Similarly, by proposing to fund EERE at $2.28 billion, you are demonstrating a commitment to driving down the costs of clean energy and increasing U.S. competitiveness in energy technology.

My colleagues and I recognize that all federal dollars must be spent wisely to achieve the maximum impact. Energy technology R&D, and EERE and ARPA-E specifically, is a smart investment for America’s future. We thank you for your continued support for these important activities to keep the U.S. economy competitive and growing.

Sincerely,

Chad Holliday
Chair
BPC’s American Energy Innovation Council

About the Bipartisan Policy Center

Founded in 2007 by former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker, Tom Daschle, Bob Dole and George Mitchell, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) is a non-profit organization that drives principled solutions through rigorous analysis, reasoned negotiation and respectful dialogue. With projects in multiple issue areas, BPC combines politically balanced policymaking with strong, proactive advocacy and outreach. www.bipartisanpolicy.org

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