

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
204 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
107 Capitol Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

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.	Carbicrete Inc.
ADL Ventures	Carbon Upcycling
Algae Biomass Organization	The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
Alliance to Save Energy	Clean Energy Business Network
American Association of Physicists in Medicine	Clean Energy Trust
American Association of Physics Teachers	Climate-KIC CA
American Astronomical Society	Confluence Philanthropy
American Chemical Society	The Council of Scientific Society Presidents
American Crystallographic Association	DNV
American Physical Society	Federation of American Scientists
American Society for Engineering Education	FedTech
American Society of Plant Biologists	Gas Technology Institute
American Sustainable Business Council	GE Research
Associated Universities, Inc.	GridWise
Association of American Universities	HelioBioSys, Inc.
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities	High Noon Advisors
Association of University Research Parks	Imperative Ventures
AVS – The Society for Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces and Processing	Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
BPC Action	JLW Advising
BRITE Energy Innovators	JumpStart Inc.
C2ES	Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
CalCharge	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