



May 3, 2018

Senator Richard Shelby, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Shelby and Alexander and Ranking Members Leahy and Feinstein:

As Congress moves forward with the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, the undersigned organizations, comprising both clean energy businesses and state officials, ask that you direct funding toward programs and activities that will ensure the physical and cyber-security of our nation's energy infrastructure and the built environment.

Federal and state government tax incentives, funding and market conditions should advance electric grids, power supplies and building stock that are reliable, more resilient, agile, cost effective, cyber-secure, and environmentally sound. Between our three organizations we have made multiple recommendations on ways in which Congress should support improvements to the nation's aging energy infrastructure and our built environment which would help to achieve those objectives. Given the enormity of the task, our recommendations span the breadth of multiple congressional committees. With regards to federal funding, and the issues under the jurisdiction of the House Appropriations Committee, we believe that these objectives should be the overarching goal of all federally funded energy programs, and that Congress should encourage investment in smart and advanced technologies - particularly in mission critical facilities. Specifically, we ask that you consider the following:

- **Assist the States with Emergency Planning and Preparedness.** Congress should enact, and provide funding for, the House-passed Enhancing State Energy Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act, HR 3050, which would provide states with federal financial assistance to implement, review, and revise their energy emergency plan, improve energy emergency preparedness and cooperation with federal agencies, and place a greater emphasis on cyber-security across the energy sector. Clean energy technologies such as combined heat and power (CHP), stationary fuel cells, energy storage, energy efficiency and others, offer more rapid restoration following cyber events if properly applied. The legislation would allow states to leverage federal resources, knowledge, and expertise with these technologies and build stronger partnerships with public and private stakeholders to improve energy emergency preparedness and response.

- **Leverage Private Financing for Mission Critical Facilities and Federal Buildings.** Congress should encourage privately financed pilot projects for the military, the hospitality industry, first responders and mission critical facilities such as state and local government, school and university buildings, hospitals, nursing homes, police stations, and shelters. In addition, Congress should increase the amount of money it appropriates to leverage private financing to upgrade federal facilities with Energy Savings Performance contracts (ESPCs) and Utility Energy Savings Contracts (UESCs).
- **Direct the Department of Energy (DOE) to Work with the States to Reexamine Building Codes.** Congress should direct the Department of Energy to work with the states to reexamine building and energy codes to encourage high performance and zero energy buildings in order to address physical and thermal performance characteristics, and other vulnerabilities in buildings which would optimize their ability to withstand catastrophic events and the potential for grid-building integration to allow for load shifting. Congress should direct DOE to facilitate peer to peer mentoring among state and local officials, builders and technology experts to share information about energy saving and resilient building practices.
- **Increase Resilience through Transportation Planning.** Congress should advance transportation system resilience through inclusion of propane, natural gas, fuel cell, electric and other alternative fueled vehicles in emergency and disaster recovery fleets. Congress can work with the private sector to develop a national network of charging and fueling corridors supporting electric, hydrogen, propane, natural gas and other alternative fueled vehicles, as well as on-site energy and efficiency for transportation infrastructure, to ensure continuity of operations and lower operating costs.
- **Compile Weather Forecasting Data to Help Communities Prepare.** Congress should direct that existing federal programs and data on weather trends, forecasting, and resilience be compiled and made available to communities. Congress should direct that appropriate federal entities engage with the private sector to identify risks facing communities and craft appropriate federal responses. Such responses could include developing a strategy to identify, prioritize and guide federal investments to enhance resilience against future disasters.
- **Enhance Workforce Development** – Congress should consider several initiatives to help train the workforce, including providing funding to conduct a federal workforce needs assessment, establishing grants or funding for STEM programs in secondary, post-secondary, technical and trade schools, funding to reintegrate veterans into energy careers, and train the next generation of vehicle mechanics in alternative fueled vehicles.
- **Coordinate Federal Smart Cities Programs.** Congress should direct the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant federal agencies to develop a strategy for coordinating federal smart cities activities, working with states, and to publish a smart cities development guide. Congress should promote private sector partnerships, as well as state, local and international cooperation to develop smart cities programs.
- **Provide Oversight for Recently Enacted Changes to the Stafford Act and Disaster Recovery Efforts.** The Supplemental Appropriations Bill for disaster assistance in the aftermath of the 2017 hurricanes & wildfires (P.L. 115-123) requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to issue guidance on Stafford Act reforms that allow disaster relief funds to be used to repair buildings, structures, and infrastructure to standards beyond their pre-disaster condition, including the use of cyber-proof and on-site energy technologies. FEMA is required to issue guidance on what mitigation steps will qualify the state for higher cost-share of future disaster relief funding. Congress should provide oversight to ensure that FEMA fulfills these statutory requirements in a timely manner.

We appreciate your consideration of these views and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your staff to further discuss ways in which Congress can help to improve the physical and cyber-security of our energy system. Please contact Ruth McCormick with the Business Council for Sustainable Energy at email: rmccormick@bcse.org to schedule a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Woolf, Senior Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs
Advance Energy Economy

Lisa Jacobson, President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy

David Terry, Executive Director
National Association of State Energy Officials

CC: Members of the House Appropriations Committee