



June 2, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chair Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chair Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson,  
We write to you today to respectfully request your committees' support for substantial FY21 public investments in U.S. energy storage technology innovation.

The U.S. energy storage industry employs over 60,000 people, and grid energy storage systems account for approximately \$1 billion annually in economic activity. Advances in energy storage technologies are transforming the U.S. electricity system by bolstering grid reliability and resilience, reducing electricity market prices, and improving the integration of a diverse and clean energy generation mix. The Department of Energy's (DOE) energy storage research programs are essential to developing and deploying the next generation of commercially-viable energy storage solutions, filling the innovation pipeline that U.S. companies depend on to improve commercial offerings, grow, and create jobs. It is for that reason that Secretary Brouillette has launched the Energy Storage Grand Challenge, dedicating the federal government to spur technology and business developments to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century electric system needs.

Our organizations respectfully request consideration of the following appropriations that will drive technology innovation and commercialization and ensure greater power sector resilience, efficiency, and sustainability:

**We fully support the Grid Energy Storage Launchpad facility proposed to be constructed at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and request that it be fully appropriated.** Doing so will assist with next-generation energy storage technology innovation and commercialization, in line with the objectives of DOE Energy Storage Grand Challenge while accelerating the commercial capabilities of U.S. energy storage companies to meet the needs of a cleaner, more resilient electric system. The White House budget request seeks approximately \$40 million for this facility construction in FY21. We recommend appropriation to the full

requested funding requirement to ensure that this important new research facility be established without delay.

**In addition, we encourage the Committee to increase appropriations to \$300 million for grid energy storage research, development, & demonstration across the Department of Energy.**

ESA recommends an appropriation of \$300MM total in FY21, with \$100MM allocated to Office of Electricity (OE) energy storage R&D accounts and \$200MM for coordinated grid energy storage RD&D in relevant other programs such as in ARPA-E and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Doing so would bring DOE energy storage R&D appropriations in line with the levels contemplated in the bipartisan, bicameral Better Energy Storage Technology Act (H.R. 2986 / S. 1602).

Our organizations all believe strongly that continued investments in energy storage technology innovation are needed to enable a clean, resilient electric system. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF)  
National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute  
U.S. Energy Storage Association (ESA)

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Energy & Water Development Subcommittee

cc: Members of the House Appropriations Committee, Energy & Water Development Subcommittee