

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

As you develop spending priorities for Fiscal Year 2020, we respectfully request that you maintain funding for discretionary programs within the U.S Department of Energy, including at least \$2.4 billion for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). History shows that investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies benefit American consumers and the economy. In fact, according to the Department of Energy, independent evaluations of EERE have “assessed one-third of EERE's research and development portfolio and found that an EERE investment of \$12 billion has already yielded an estimated net economic benefit to the United States of more than \$230 billion, with an overall annual return on investment of more than 20%.”¹

The numerous economic benefits of EERE activities justify continued strong federal funding. The President's budget, however, proposes steep cuts to the program, reducing EERE funding to \$343 million for FY20. This 87 percent budget reduction would threaten the pace of progress the United States has achieved in energy innovation, and jeopardize our standing as a global leader in the clean energy economy. At a time when other countries are committing to serious investments in renewable energy, continued federal funding for research, development, and deployment of renewable energy and efficiency technologies is critical if the United States is to maintain economic competitiveness and energy security.

EERE programs provide essential support to the American energy sector. On the production side, EERE focuses on improving domestic renewable energy resources like solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal power. On the consumption side, EERE helps U.S. consumers and businesses save money on their energy bills through research and programs that improve insulation, heating, and cooling of homes and buildings, as well as increased fuel efficiency for vehicles. EERE also supports innovation at the state and local level, providing funds directly to governments so they can develop their own energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

¹ “About the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.” Department of Energy, www.energy.gov/eere/about-office-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy.

America's investment in clean energy innovation is a source of strength, enabling energy independence, promoting job growth, and lowering energy bills for American consumers. For these reasons we urge you to maintain strong funding for EERE. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



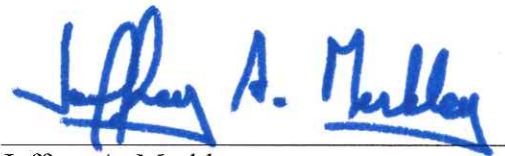
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



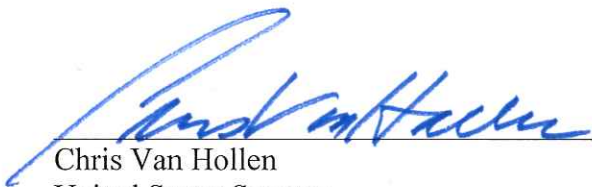
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



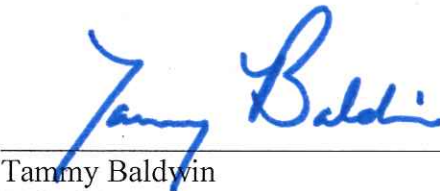
Jack Reed
United States Senator



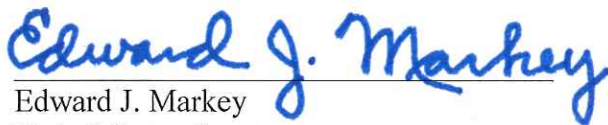
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



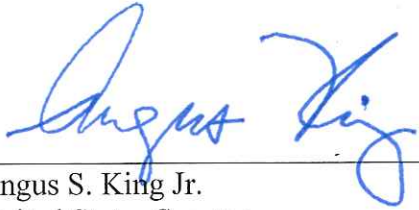
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



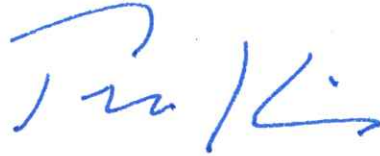
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



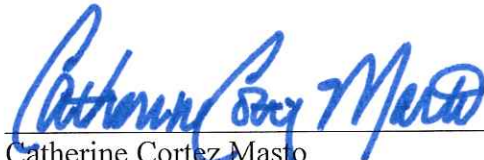
Angus S. King Jr.
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United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
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Debbie Stabenow
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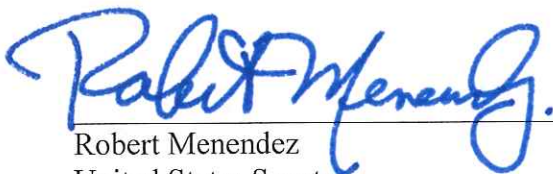
Christopher A. Coons
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Ben Cardin
Benjamin J. Cardin
United States Senator



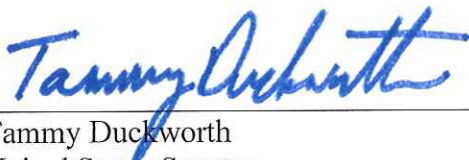
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



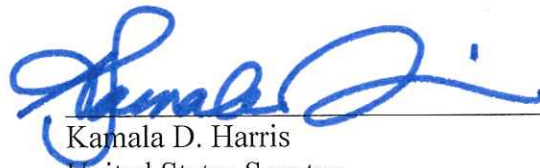
Robert Menendez
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Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator




Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

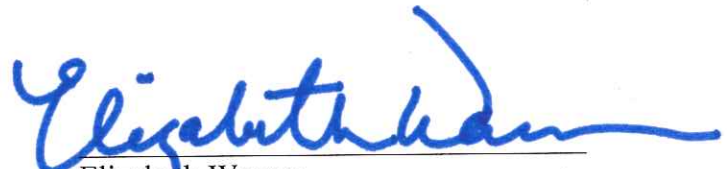

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

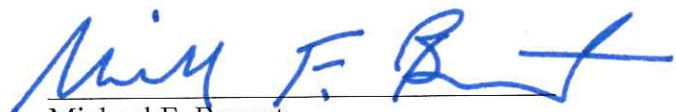

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United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator