



Norman Augustine • Ursula Burns • John Doerr • Bill Gates • Charles Holliday • Jeff Immelt • Tom Linebarger

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member
House Science, Space, and Technology
Committee
2321 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

On behalf of the American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC), I thank you for your continuing commitment to supporting energy technology research and development. AEIC supports consistent and growing authorizations for public investments in innovation generally and in energy R&D specifically. We know that investments in the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and in American scientific endeavors are critical to U.S. competitiveness in energy technology and will drive future economic growth. We support the aims of the 2007 America COMPETES legislation and its 2010 reauthorization, and we urge you to continue on the path previously set by these bipartisan efforts.

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 authorizations for programs such as ARPA-E and DOE's Office of Science must continue to increase to bolster our country's energy innovation system and long-term economic competitiveness.

My colleagues and I recognize that federal dollars must be spent wisely to achieve maximum impact. We strongly support reauthorizing ARPA-E because it is a smart investment. We support the entrepreneurial and outcome-oriented approach to developing breakthrough technologies first demonstrated by DARPA and now emulated by ARPA-E. By investing in early-stage, transformational energy technologies in consultation with private firms, ARPA-E challenges and empowers innovators across a range of technology pathways and leverages follow-on private capital for innovation.

We also support consistent and growing authorizations for DOE's Office of Science. Basic research is a function best suited for government, which can sustain and direct long-range scientific endeavors and research facilities in a manner that the private sector simply cannot. The investments we make today produce the discoveries of tomorrow, creating the fundamental knowledge that inventors use and businesses ultimately commercialize. Between its work on basic energy sciences, advanced computing, and other basic research, DOE's Office of Science is the keystone in the innovation ecosystem that sustains America's long-run scientific competitiveness.



Norman Augustine • Ursula Burns • John Doerr • Bill Gates • Charles Holliday • Jeff Immelt • Tim Solso

The conference report to the America COMPETES Act of 2007 passed the House with a bipartisan vote of 367 to 57, passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent, and was signed into law by President George W. Bush because Congress recognized what business already knew – America is falling behind in the race for future technologies and industries. In order to remain a world leader in innovation and grow our economy, Congress must continue its support for federal R&D investments.

We stand ready to work with you to chart a productive course for American discovery and invention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chad Holliday'.

Chad Holliday
Chair, American Energy Innovation Council