



- **Rhode Island** Gov. Gina M. Raimondo, Chair
- **Kansas** Gov. Sam Brownback, Vice Chair
- Executive Director, Larry Pearce

April 24, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy  
& Water Development  
Committee of Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy  
& Water Development  
Committee of Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
2362-B House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Diane Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee  
on Energy & Water Development  
Committee of Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-128, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey,  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee  
on Energy & Water Development  
Committee of Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Feinstein and Lowey:

As governors, we have seen how robust federal funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) research and development activities and support for our states through the U.S. State Energy Program ensures that future generations of Americans are the beneficiaries of the nation's tradition of energy innovation and economic competitiveness. We respectfully request that the final energy and water appropriations bills for both FY'17 and FY'18 provide funding to support an affordable, clean, and reliable energy system — from generation and production — to consumers and businesses in our states.

***U.S. State Energy Program Appropriation Allows Governors to Set Energy Priorities***

A vital part of the states' work on energy security and energy-related economic development is derived from the governors' allocation of funds from the U.S. State Energy Program (SEP). We leverage private resources with these funds, connect federal energy R&D programs with the priorities and policies of our states, and coordinate energy emergency response and planning with DOE experts and the private sector. In DOE's nearly \$30 billion budget, the modest amount of SEP funds is the only funding provided to the governors to implement our states' energy priorities. The National Governors Association recommended to the new Administration that it should "continue and expand" the State Energy Program. We recognize the value of SEP, and we request that Congress provide funding in FY'17 and FY'18 consistent with funding levels provided in FY'16, and the level included in FY'17 House and Senate funding bills.

***DOE's Research and Development Appropriation Supports Vital Energy Innovation***

Our states' efforts to promote renewable energy innovation, including the remarkable advances in the nation's wind and solar technology, have brought prosperity across America, especially to those Americans in rural areas who embrace renewable energy as an economic cornerstone for their communities. DOE's support — research, analysis, modeling, technical assistance — is the basis for our states' energy planning and the renewable energy industries' success.

We ask that both the Senate and House Energy and Water Development Subcommittees provide funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Wind and Solar programs at levels not less than FY'16 for both FY'17 and FY'18. These funding levels will accelerate technology advances, expand private sector investment in renewable energy projects, and support improved reliability and modernization of the nation's electric grid.

Without DOE's support, Texas would not be the nation's leader in wind energy production, the nation's first offshore wind farm near Rhode Island's Block Island would not have been possible, Kansas would not have the largest increase in renewable energy generation this year, and California's Sierra Sun Tower would not have been built. These are a few the examples of how DOE's work has helped shaped our states' energy future.

Thank you for your consideration of our funding requests for DOE's State Energy Program and DOE's renewable energy Research and Development activities.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor of Rhode Island  
and Chair



Sam Brownback  
Governor of Kansas  
and Vice Chair

cc:

Members, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Members,  
U.S. Senate Finance Committee  
Members, U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Members, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy &  
Water Development  
Members, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Commerce and Energy  
The Honorable Michael Mulvaney, Director, White House Office of Management & Budget  
The Honorable Rick Perry, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy  
The Honorable Mike Catanzaro, Assistant to the President for Energy and Environment