



An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

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March 8, 2016

Congressman David McKinley
313 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for our region. Additionally, your support for the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), a key asset in our region's research portfolio, has led to increased funding that has stabilized the lab, allowing its critical research to move forward.

For FY 2017, the Department of Energy (DOE) has requested a budget of \$600 million for the Fossil Energy R & D program (FE Program) that funds NETL. This would represent a \$32 million decrease from the FY 2016 funding that Congress enacted in December. Additionally, the administration is seeking to de-obligate and reclaim \$240 million from the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI) for use in the 2017 R & D program. Because the CCPI funding was already appropriated in prior years, the actual 2017 appropriations for FE Program would see a more than 40% cut from 2016 appropriations. Congress should not agree to this level of support and should, as in years past, provide the appropriate levels of funding.

On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of NETL, I urge you to continue to work with your colleagues and support the lab. To this end, for FY 2017 appropriations, I ask that you work with appropriators to provide robust funding of \$758 million for NETL. Additionally, I request your continued support for the Coal and Natural Gas CCS programs which are funded and administered by DOE's Fossil Energy R&D program. By providing this critical funding, the vital research being conducted on technologies to utilize our nation's vast coal, oil, and natural gas resources will be greatly enhanced. As for the CCPI funds, these resources should go towards current or future large scale CCS pilot projects as intended.

NETL has a proven track record of developing and cultivating technologies that deliver real, tangible benefits. This program is directly responsible for developing control technologies that are used at 75% of our domestic coal-burning power plants, which reduced SO₂ and NO_x by an average of 85%. As you know, coal and natural gas are essential to the U.S. economy and this is why the NETL's R & D is increasingly important as energy production becomes ever more important to the nation's long-term economic growth.

Again, I appreciate your continued leadership on this critical issue. I look forward to working with you and your office to advance NETL's vital mission.

Please feel free to let me know of any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Smith
President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce