

Issue Brief **National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) Appropriations**

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (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 have 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.

Background

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. The House Appropriations Committee agreed in the spring to a budget of \$645 million for NETL, an increase of \$13 million from FY 2016. In the Senate chose to maintain level funding at \$632 million.

Conclusion

- For FY 2017 budget/omnibus/continual resolution negotiations, I ask that you work with your colleagues to provide robust funding and to advocate for the House's appropriated levels of \$645 million, a \$13 million increase.
- The CCPI funds should go towards current or future large scale carbon capture & storage pilot projects, as intended.