



An affiliate of the Allegheny Conference

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March 28, 2017

Dear Southwestern Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for our region. Specifically, your support for the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), a key asset in our region's energy and research portfolio, led to increased funding that has stabilized the lab and allowed vital research to move forward. I write today to respectfully ask for your continued support for NETL and ask that you work to close out the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process and support the lab in the next phases of the FY 2018 budget and appropriations process.

As you know, the Obama administration's FY 2017 budget included a request of \$600 million for the Fossil Energy R & D program (FE Program) that funds NETL. This would have represented a \$32 million decrease from the FY 2016 appropriations. In the spring of 2016, the House Committee on Appropriations voted on a budget of \$645 million for FE Program, an increase of \$13 million from FY 2016. In the Senate, appropriators voted to maintain level funding at \$632 million. If an omnibus is enacted, I ask for your support of the House's Committee on Appropriations' \$645 million line item.

Additionally, the administration was 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 the FE Program would see a more than 40 percent cut from 2016 appropriations. We respectfully submit that this level of support is not adequate and that appropriate levels of funding should be maintained.

For FY 2018, we stand ready to inform the new administration about the importance of NETL and the FE Program. I ask that you work with appropriators to provide robust funding of at least \$829 million for NETL. Additionally, your colleagues, Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), are leading a bipartisan appropriations letter request, which will also seek \$829 million for the lab.

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 percent of our domestic coal-burning power plants, which reduced SO₂ and NO_x by an average of 85 percent.

As you know, coal and natural gas are essential to the U.S. economy, the nation's energy portfolio, and our grid reliability. NETL's R & D provides a return on investment that is critical to ensure these objectives are achieved.

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 let me know of any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Matt Smith
President, Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

CC:

Senator Bob Casey
Senator Pat Toomey
Congressman Mike Doyle
Congressman David McKinley