

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

As the Senate moves ahead with further consideration of the FY2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, we the undersigned urge your support for the Department of Energy's "REgaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge" (RE-ENERGYSE) program. The Administration requested \$115 million for this important new energy education and training program in its FY2010 budget request.

Unfortunately, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved no money for the program in its recent markup, and the House Appropriations Committee appropriated only \$7 million – falling far short of the Administration's \$115 million request. We urge the Senate and House to ensure the successful development of this program by meeting the full budget request.

As President Obama said in April: "The nation that leads the world in 21st century clean energy will be the nation that leads in the 21st century global economy... [RE-ENERGYSE] will prepare a generation of Americans to meet this generational challenge."

RE-ENERGYSE is an innovative program that will train America's future energy workforce, accelerate our transition to a prosperous clean energy economy, and ensure that we lead the world's burgeoning clean technology industries. According to the Department of Energy, the Higher Education subprogram alone would result in the development of leading edge undergraduate and graduate programs and enable between 5,000 and 8,500 highly educated scientists, engineers, and other professionals to enter the clean energy field by 2015. The total would rise to approximately 10,000 to 17,000 professionals by 2020.

America is in danger of losing its global competitiveness and the clean energy race without substantial new investments in science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM) education. China, South Korea, Japan, and other nations are seeking to quickly lead this sector by launching unprecedented public investment projects in their clean energy industries. China plans to invest \$440 to \$660 billion over the next decade to dominate markets in wind, solar, plug-in hybrid vehicles and more, while South Korea has committed to invest a full 2% of its GDP in a clean technology-driven growth strategy. Meeting this challenge and ensuring America's continued economic competitiveness will require a substantial federal commitment, including funding for new education programs that inspire the next generation of students to pursue careers in STEM fields. RE-ENERGYSE is designed to be just such a program.

The prosperity and security of the United States in the 21st century will depend on the course of action we take today on energy. To overcome our national energy challenges and rejuvenate our economic competitiveness, Congress must make new investments to educate, train and inspire the next generation of American energy scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs. We urge you to

fully fund the RE-ENERGYSE initiative for FY2010, and we thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Climate Education
The Altshuller Institute for TRIZ Studies
American Geological Institute
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
Apollo Alliance
Arizona State University
Appalachian State University PSM in Engineering Physics- Instrumentation and Automation
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Babson College
Babson College Energy and Environmental Club
Baker College
Berkeley Energy Resources Collaborative
Binghamton University- State University of New York
Bloomsburg University
Boston University Energy Club
Breakthrough Institute
CSTEM Teacher and Student Support Services
The California State University
California State University-Bakersfield
California State University-Channel Islands
California State University-Chico
California State University- East Bay
California State University-Fresno
California State University-Fresno PSM Programs in Biotechnology and Water Resources
California State University-San Bernardino
California State University-Stanislaus
California State University-Stanislaus PSM Program in Genetic Counseling
Center for Genomic Sciences- Allegheny-Singer Research Institute
Clemson University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Undergraduate Research
Duke University

EAST Initiative
emPOWER, Brown University Student Energy Group
Energy Action Coalition
Engineers Without Borders- USA
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
Focus the Nation
George Washington University PSM in Molecular Biotechnology
Georgia Institute of Technology
Global Exchange
Harvard College Environmental Action Committee
IEEE-USA
LearnOnLine, Inc.
Maritime Academy Charter High School
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Michigan State University
Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition
Middle Tennessee State University
Missouri Student Environmental Coalition
Morgan State University
Museum of Science, Boston
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders
Council of Environmental Deans and Directors
National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA)
National Science Teachers Association
New Mexico State University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Oregon State University
Oregon State University PSM Programs
Pathways into Science
Pennsylvania State University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Renewable Northwest Project
Rice University PSM Program

Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition
Roosevelt Institution
San Diego State University
San Jose State University PSM Program in Biotechnology
Sierra Student Coalition
South Dakota State University
SPIE- The International Society for Optics and Photonics
State University of New York PSM Programs
STEM School Administrators Association
Student Environmental Action Coalition
SustainU.S., the Youth Network for Sustainable Development
Syracuse University
University of Arizona
University at Buffalo SUNY PSM Program
University of California-Berkeley
University of California-Davis
University of California- Irvine
University of California- Riverside
University of California- San Diego
University of California- Santa Barbara
University of California- Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Connecticut PSM Program
University of the District of Columbia
University of Houston System
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign PSM Program
University of Kentucky
University of Maryland- University College PSM Program in Environmental Management
University of Massachusetts PSM Programs
University of Michigan
University of Nevada- Las Vegas
University of North Carolina- Charlotte
University of Northern Iowa PSM Program
University of Oregon
University of Southern California
University of South Carolina Biotechnology PSM Program
University of Texas-El Paso Bioinformatics PSM Program
University of Wisconsin- Madison

University of Wisconsin System
Vanderbilt University
Will Steger Foundation