



December 10, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Feinstein, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Kaptur,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and its more than three million members and online activists, we urge Congress to investigate whether the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is intentionally ignoring the will of Congress regarding distributing funding for clean energy research, development, and demonstration (RD&D). Given previous efforts by the Trump administration to eliminate or significantly cut funding for key research programs and offices, NRDC fears that certain administration officials at DOE may be attempting to achieve this objective by blocking clean energy RD&D funding from ever finding its way to U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs that are eager to put their ingenuity to work to lead the global transformation to a clean energy future.

NRDC reviewed publicly available data to track spending by DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). More than two months after the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) on September 30, our analysis shows that approximately \$600 million in FY18 funding for clean energy RD&D remains unused. Specifically:

- ARPA-E has not spent more than \$280 million (79 percent) of its \$353 million FY18 research budget; and,
- EERE has not spent more than \$319 million (14 percent) of its \$2.32 billion FY18 research budget.

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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Given the rapid transformation in global energy systems, there is no shortage of research ideas to explore. The consequences of the funds remaining unspent with no apparent plan for utilization is not only an insult to congressional direction but undermines U.S. businesses and entrepreneurs in developing the next generation of clean energy technologies.

NRDC cares a great deal about consistent and robust clean energy funding because it is critical to our ability to combat climate change and capitalize on a clean energy future. As we describe in more detail in the attachment, the delays that we are witnessing in getting FY18 research funding out the door is uncharacteristic and concerning. We urge Congress to get to the bottom of this issue.

Sincerely,



Ana Unruh Cohen
Managing Director of Government Affairs
Natural Resources Defense Council

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Lamar Smith
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson