



September 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

On behalf of Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI), I write in support of consideration and passage of bipartisan energy innovation legislation approved by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (H.R. 2986, H.R. 3607, H.R. 3609, H.R. 3597, H.R. 4091, H.R. 4230, H.R. 4481, H.R. 5248, H.R. 5374, H.R. 5760, H.R. 6084, H.R. 6097, and several other bills under development). Taken collectively, this legislation would promote investments and emphasize specific science and innovations needed to enhance energy security and U.S. global competitiveness, and provide the most sweeping advancement of energy technologies in well over a decade.

In particular, AUI strongly supports H.R. 4481, the *Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2019*, which is part of the package. The bill would establish a comprehensive research program at the Department of Energy (DOE) addressing all stages of the critical materials supply chain—from extraction to recycling—and identify potential alternative materials. In so doing, H.R. 4481 would help secure the Nation's access to materials that form critical components of clean energy technologies. This important legislation would also enhance the technical workforce required to realize these goals through expanded collaborations and research opportunities for students and researchers.

I want to also express our support for H.R. 5760, the *Grid Security Research and Development Act*, and H.R. 5428, the *Grid Modernization Research and Development Act*. Both bills would advance grid research in areas such as cybersecurity, resilience, and efficiency. AUI maintains expertise in cybersecurity research and demonstration through Woodstar Labs, a technology and analysis firm focused on cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, and microgrids, among other areas. Woodstar Labs most recently chartered and supported the National Commission on Grid Resilience (NCGR), which convened experts from across the energy sector to issue a comprehensive set of recommendations for enhancing grid security.¹ AUI looks forward to working with our partners across industry, academia, and government to implement the NCGR recommendations under the auspices of these important pieces of legislation.

Finally, I would also like to highlight our support for the *Department of Energy Office of Science Reauthorization Act*, which is still under development. The bill, expected to be included in this package, would advance key priorities of the energy sciences community, strengthen foundational energy

¹ <https://gridresilience.org/>

research at DOE, and guide investments in major scientific facilities and experiments across the Office of Science.

Thank you for advancing key energy technologies through this legislation. AUI looks forward to working with you to ensure a more sustainable and secure energy future for our Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Cohen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Adam Cohen
President
Associated Universities, Inc.