

Dear Representative,

On Wednesday, July 10, the House Science, Space, and Technology (HSST) Subcommittee on Energy will be considering the Fossil Energy Research and Development (R&D) Act, along with the Solar Energy R&D Act and the Wind Energy R&D Act.

I am writing to strongly encourage your support for all of these forward-looking pieces of legislation. The Fossil Energy R&D Act will advance the nation's research, development, demonstration, and commercialization of technologies for carbon capture, utilization, storage, and direct air capture. Like the wind and solar bills, the fossil bill has attracted bi-partisan support, a fact that reflects the emerging consensus that policymakers need to find ways to work together to accelerate reductions in carbon emissions. The result will be a safer climate and more jobs.

As Environmental Defense Fund argued in our testimony before the Energy Subcommittee on June 19, finding ways to de-carbonize fossil fuel use is an essential element of managing the nation's transition to a net zero emissions future by 2050. Simply stated, the agenda defined by the bill will allow us to find out what works in carbon management, and to do so as quickly as possible.

Authorizing continued and increasing funding for the wind and solar programs in the Department of Energy (DOE) is equally important. It will help ensure that we continue to improve the cost and performance of these zero emission electricity technologies. As they get cheaper and more efficient, solar and wind will continue to deploy across the country, offering affordable, clean, renewable electricity to U.S. consumers. These bills will also support workforce training, develop domestic manufacturing capacity, and explore new strategies and technologies to enable higher penetrations of wind and solar to be integrated into the grid.

Focusing the DOE's work on the technologies identified in these bills is one part of a policy agenda that is rapidly emerging in discussions about climate policy. Research on carbon management technologies should be accompanied by expanded funding for R&D investments in non-carbon alternatives – including incentives for private-sector capital investment in solar, wind and other technologies that are helping reduce emissions today.

Finally, we continue to need an economy-wide price and limit on carbon emissions as an economic framework within which the innovation work supported by the HSST can flourish. The result will be lower costs, more efficient achievement of carbon-reduction goals, and a cleaner, less hazardous future.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gore

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