

July 28, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

I write to convey the enthusiastic support of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation's (ITIF) support for your bill to reauthorization the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E).

ITIF has been an advocate for ARPA-E since it was first proposed. We have been regular participants in ARPA-E's annual summits and Capitol Hill showcases. We meet regularly with ARPA-E's staff to monitor the agency's progress and serve as an informal sounding board.

Most important, ITIF research, along with research by the National Academies and others, has shown that ARPA-E plays a vital role in energy innovation in the United States. Our November 2017 report, "ARPA-E: Versatile Catalyst for U.S. Energy Innovation," concludes that ARPA-E complements private investment by allowing companies with promising but unproven ideas to become good candidates for funding by venture capital, strategics, and other funders that are further downstream in the innovation chain.

Our report also concluded that "ARPA-E should be reauthorized. Reauthorization would send a strong signal that ARPA-E's autonomy should be maintained and lay the groundwork for expanding its budget." Your bill calls for a substantial expansion in ARPA-E's authorization for appropriations. Our research suggests that these resources would be put to good use accelerating energy innovation in the United States, and we will support their being appropriated.

Thank you for your leadership in this important area of innovation policy.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Atkinson
President and Founder, The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation