



**THIRD WAY**

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
2405 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

I would like to express Third Way's support for H.R. 34, the Energy and Water Research and Integration Act of 2019. This common-sense legislation would strengthen the Department of Energy's understanding of the water-energy nexus, and increase water use efficiency. We must reduce both water and energy use to sustainably grow our economy as well as reign-in emissions.

Growing water demand from multiple sectors, including energy production, coupled with increasingly uncertain precipitation patterns, makes understanding and coordinating across the all levels of government on the energy-water nexus increasingly important. As the 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessment reports, changing precipitation and temperature patterns are already threatening the availability of water for many sectors, particularly in the semi-arid Southwest and Western United States.

H.R. 34 recognizes the need for greater coordination on the water-energy nexus both throughout DOE's RD&D cycle as well as the need to develop best practices in the water-energy nexus. DOE possesses the technical expertise and modeling capabilities to undertake this effort, as well as relationships with state and local partners that will be crucial to carry out this work. For these reasons, Third Way enthusiastically supports this legislation.

Sincerely,

**Josh Freed**  
Senior Vice President for Clean Energy