

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas,

On behalf of the more than 900 rural electric cooperatives represented by NRECA, I write to you in support of energy innovation legislation passed by the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. I commend both of you for working in a bipartisan manner to advance these bills that would authorize investments in the research, development and demonstration (RD&D) of emerging technologies aimed to modernize the energy sector. Many of these bills will not only result in new technological advancements, but will also make these technologies more commercially viable and help utilities better and more cost-effectively integrate them into the grid.

Specifically, NRECA supports the following legislation:

H.R. 2986 – the “Better Energy Storage Technologies Act,” invests in much-needed energy storage RD&D and provides grant funding for utilities to carry out storage demonstration projects.

H.R. 3607 – the “Fossil Energy Research and Development Act,” reauthorizes and expands critical Department of Energy (DOE) programs to improve the efficiency of and reduce emissions from natural gas and coal generation, including innovative RD&D activities related to carbon capture, utilization and storage.

H.R. 3609 – the “Wind Energy Research and Development Act,” creates a grant program for wind RD&D aimed to increase resilience/reliability, improve capabilities, reduce barriers to deployment and optimize performance.

H.R. 3597 – the “Solar Energy Research and Development Act,” creates a grant program for RD&D, testing and evaluation of solar energy technologies.

H.R. 4091 – the “ARPA-E Reauthorization Act,” reauthorizes the important ARPA-E program which has and will continue to drive innovation in the energy sector.

H.R. 5428 – the “Grid Modernization Research and Development Act,” establishes a smart grid demonstration initiative and provides grants for utilities to enhance their grid resilience and emergency response.

H.R. 5760 – the “Grid Security Research and Development Act,” increases funding and ensures coordination around cybersecurity for emerging technologies and provides RD&D grant funds for

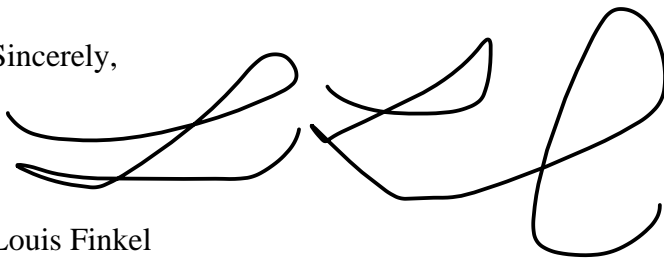
qualifying entities. This legislation also helps support a cybersecurity workforce to further the needs of the electric power sector.

H.R. 6084 – the “Water Power Research and Development Act,” reauthorizes the DOE’s marine and hydropower RD&D activities, including emerging technologies such as pumped storage hydropower.

H.R. 6097 – the “Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act,” reauthorizes DOE’s nuclear energy RD&D activities, furthering new technologies for both existing plants and advanced nuclear concepts.

Thank you both for your leadership on energy innovation. This package will accelerate the commercialization of emerging technologies and support electric cooperatives as they continue to provide affordable and reliable power to their consumer-members. I look forward to working with you to ensure passage on the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Louis Finkel
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association