

September 14, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Leader
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) expresses its strong support for a package of bipartisan energy bills and urges you to bring these bills to the Floor as soon as possible for consideration. SAFE commends the House Energy and Commerce and the Science, Space, and Technology Committees for bipartisan action on a range of legislation. It is time to bring long-overdue energy legislation to the House Floor to help restore and create jobs at this critical juncture and to improve our Nation's energy security, innovation, and competitiveness.

SAFE¹ is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded in 2004 focused on reducing America's near-total dependence on oil for transportation and increasing energy resilience to enhance U.S. economic and national security. SAFE develops and advocates for policies to increase the use of domestic resources, the efficient use of those resources, and the diversification of fuels in the transportation sector, including electric vehicles, which require a reliable, resilient, safe, and secure grid to power them. Later this month, SAFE is releasing a new report with recommendations regarding the strategic threat of China on the future of the U.S. battery storage, and auto and transportation industries.

Importantly, SAFE urges you to include in the package being brought to the Floor an expanded version of the DOE Loan Guarantee Program to include the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) loan program (ATVM) – a program which supports the manufacturing of alternative fuel vehicles – from its original light-duty passenger focus to include medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, and an expanded, clearer definition of “qualifying” components, as is the case in the House-passed *Moving Forward Act*, H.R. 2. These changes would help reduce the United States' dependence on oil. ATVM has contributed to a total of 17 facilities being built or retrofitted in nine states to date, leading to the direct employment of 38,000 Americans in automotive manufacturing and reducing annual gasoline consumption by 282 million gallons.

Given SAFE's mission, SAFE also particularly supports authorizing provisions which are vital to enhancing the resilience, reliability, and security of our electric system, particularly those that would further advance *grid modernization; transportation electrification; and, electric transmission*, including those that are in H.R. 2.

¹ SAFE's Energy Security Leadership Council (ESLC) is comprised of business leaders and over 20 four-star Admirals and Generals who are among the most respected voices on U.S. national security.

SAFE also supports research and development that would facilitate the modernization of the electric grid, i.e., H.R. 5428, the *Grid Modernization Research and Development Act*, and that would strengthen the capacity of the energy sector to prepare for and withstand cyber and physical attacks, i.e., H.R. 5760, the *Grid Security Research and Development Act*. In addition, SAFE supports H.R. 2986, the *Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act* to advance energy storage, especially grid-scale storage. Moreover, SAFE supports H.R. 4481, the *Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act*, which would take a step toward improving critical materials recycling as well as toward helping to reduce U.S. dependence on critical minerals, which largely come from foreign adversaries.

SAFE advocated for these types of measures and for the expansion of the critical ATVM program to include medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in its recent “[Get America Moving Again](#)” (GAMA) economic recovery and national security report.

As you are well aware, today, the United States remains dependent on imports for 92 percent of its lithium needs, 100 percent of its cobalt requirements, 59 percent of its nickel consumption, and 100 percent of its graphite demands. These minerals, along with their rare earth counterparts, are critical for the production of a variety of goods, ranging from EV batteries to precision-guided munitions for the Department of Defense. In response, the United States must utilize its advantage in technological innovation and endowment of domestic resources to alter this course.

SAFE urges you to bring this package to the House Floor and, after the Senate passes its energy bill, the *American Energy Innovation Act*, to quickly “conference” these bills, so they can be enacted into law to enhance America’s energy independence and energy, economic, and national security.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at: rdiamond@secureenergy.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robbie Diamond". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robbie Diamond
Founder, President, and CEO
SAFE

Cc: House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Pallone
House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Walden
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chairwoman Johnson
House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Ranking Member Lucas