

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2017

Hon. Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations

Hon. Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations

RE: Support for U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to request that the Energy and Water Subcommittee provide \$6 million for joint U.S.-Israel Cooperation programs. The funding will be utilized for the implementation of the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement and for the establishment of the U.S.-Israel Energy Center ("Center of Excellence"). **The government of Israel has committed to match U.S. funding for these programs. So for every dollar the U.S. provides – two dollars are spent cooperatively on energy research.**

Funding for the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement will provide for collaborative U.S. - Israeli research and development efforts in the fields of alternative energy technologies and increased energy efficiency. Congress has provided \$15.7 million for the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement program since its inception, fully matched by the Government of Israel. To date, the program has leveraged over \$37 million in private sector cost-share since 2009.

Section 917 of *The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007*, P.L. 110-140, and the May 2008 agreement between the U.S. and Israel on alternative energy cooperation provided the initial authorization for the program, which is administered by the U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of Energy and Israel's Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources.

The program provides grants to U.S., and Israeli small businesses and academic institutions to develop technologies in the fields of alternative and renewable energy and energy efficiency, including wind, solar, electric vehicles, power storage, grid efficiency and biofuels. BIRD has provided grants to projects in 19 U.S. states since 2009. Projects that qualify for BIRD Energy funding must include one U.S. and one Israeli company, or a company from one of the countries paired with a university or research institution from the other. Qualified projects must contribute at least 50% to project costs and commit to repayments if the project leads to commercial success.

Funding for the U.S.-Israel Energy Center ("Center of Excellence") will bring to fruition a project that Congress, the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Government of Israel have worked on and supported for the past two years. The Center of Excellence will include joint research and development, academic, and technology transfer ventures in areas such as thermal power, produced and wastewater treatment, desalination, clean energy, produced water, natural gas, and protection of critical infrastructure through cybersecurity.

Sec. 12(d) of the *United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014* (P.L. 113-296) provided for the creation of the Center of Excellence. The Center of Excellence is intended to bring together the best and brightest from the United States and Israeli governments, academia and private sector in the research and development of new energy and water technologies.

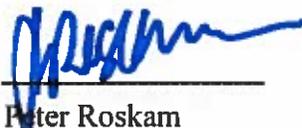
Neither the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement nor the United States-Israel Energy Center ("Center of Excellence") are aid programs. These programs are important tools in our efforts to achieve greater energy security and independence, and leverage a relatively small investment to incentivize academic and private sector innovation in the pursuit of a critical objective.

We thank you for your consideration and for your prior support for U.S-Israel energy cooperation and request your continued support for FY 2018.

Sincerely,



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



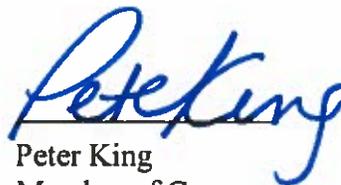
Eliot Engel
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene

Suzan DelBene
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Gene Green

Gene Green
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Daniel Lipinski

Daniel Lipinski
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Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly
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Ted Lieu

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Dina Titus

Dina Titus
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Eric Swalwell

Eric Swalwell
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Leonard Lance

Leonard Lance
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Blake Farenthold

Blake Farenthold
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Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne

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Diana DeGette

Diana DeGette
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Paul Ruiz

Paul Ruiz
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John P. Sarbanes

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

William R. Keating

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Alma Adams

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy

Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Tony Cardenas

Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

Stephen Lynch

Stephen Lynch
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Brian Higgins

Brian Higgins
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Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff
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Luke Messer

Luke Messer
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Nydia Velazquez

Nydia M. Velazquez
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Peter Defazio

Peter Defazio
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Juan Vargas

Juan Vargas
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Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack
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Jim Costa

Jim Costa
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Denny Heck

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Brad S. Schneider

Brad S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Lucky Rosen

Lucky Rosen
Member of Congress

Al Green

Al Green
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



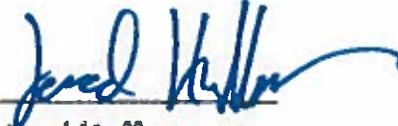
Buddy Carter
Member of Congress



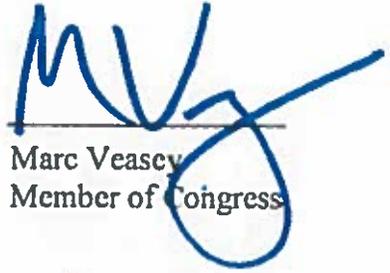
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



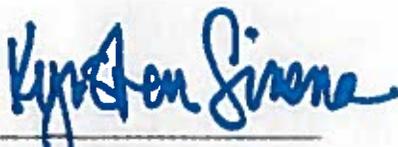
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



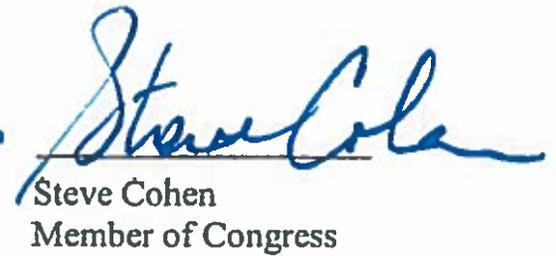
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress


Albio Sires
Member of Congress

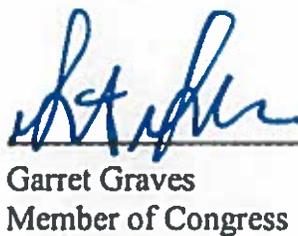

Sander Levin
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress

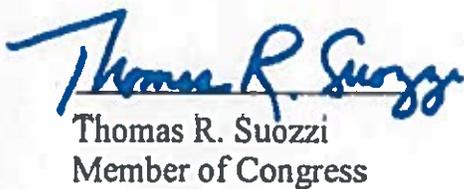

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

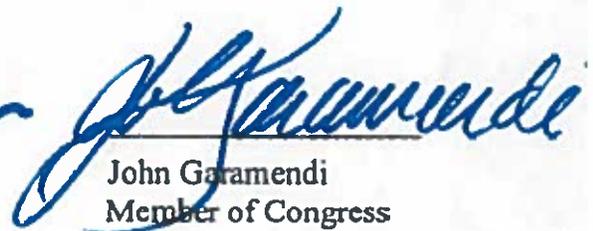

Garret Graves
Member of Congress

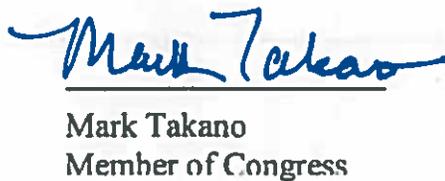

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress


Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

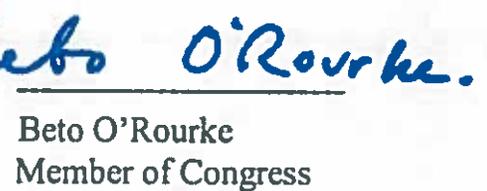

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress

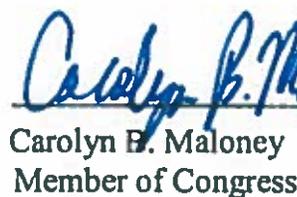

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

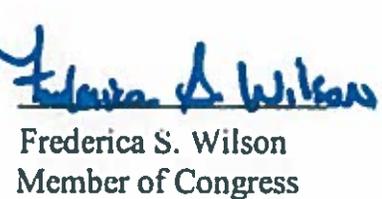

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

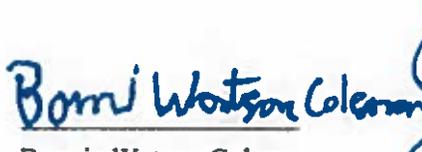

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

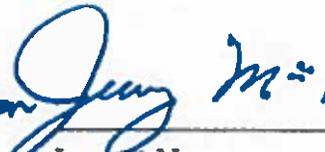

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

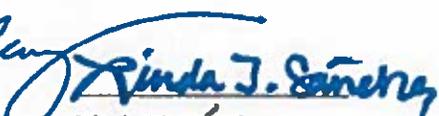

Martha McSally
Member of Congress


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

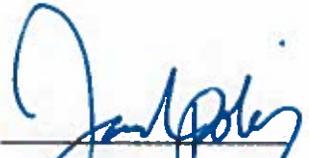

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

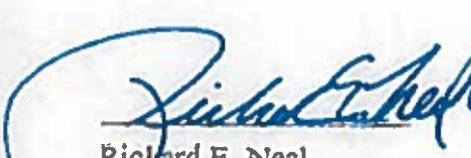

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

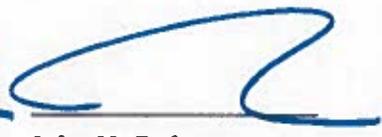

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

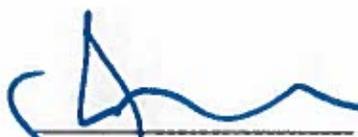

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress


Jared Polis
Member of Congress


Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress


Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress


John K. Delaney
Member of Congress


Neal Dunn
Member of Congress


Rya Costello
Member of Congress


A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress