

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable 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 to continue implementation of the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement and to develop the U.S.-Israel Energy Center (the “Center of Excellence”). **The Israeli government has committed to match U.S. funding for these programs. So for every dollar the U.S. provides – two dollars are spent collaboratively on energy research.**

Funding for the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement will facilitate joint U.S.-Israeli research and development efforts in the fields of alternative power and 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. Since 2009, it has leveraged over \$37 million in private sector cost-share.

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. It 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 alternative energy, renewable energy, and energy efficiency technologies, including new wind, solar, electric vehicle, power storage, grid efficiency, and biofuel innovations. BIRD has provided grants to projects in at least 19 U.S. states

since 2009. Projects that qualify for BIRD 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. Participating projects must contribute at least 50% to project costs and commit to repayments if the product leads to commercial success.

Funding for the Center of Excellence will bring to fruition an effort that Congress, the Department of Energy, and the Government of Israel have worked on and supported for the past three years. Section 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. Once established, it will connect great minds from the United States and Israel to enable joint research and development in areas such as thermal power, clean energy, wastewater treatment, desalination, produced water, natural gas, and the protection of critical infrastructure through cybersecurity.

The U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement and the Center of Excellence are not aid programs. These initiatives leverage a relatively small government investment to incentivize academic and private sector innovation in pursuit of a critical objective: energy security and independence.

Thank you for your consideration and prior funding for U.S.-Israel energy cooperation. We request your continued support for FY 2019.

Sincerely,



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Peter Roskam
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

David Cicilline
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

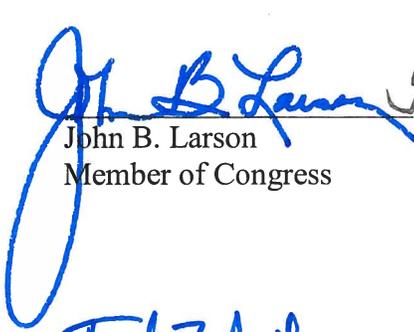
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress


Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress


Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress


Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

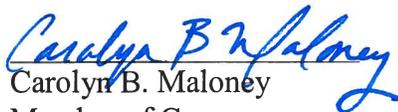

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

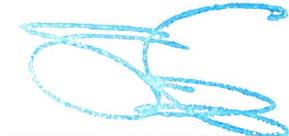

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

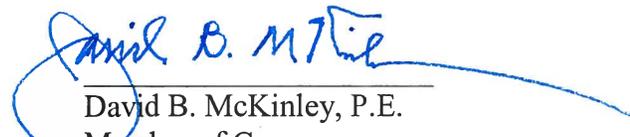

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

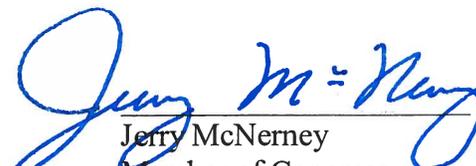

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

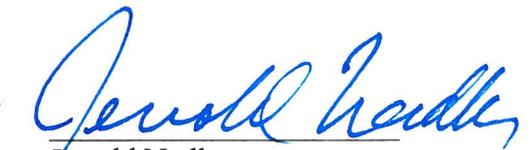

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

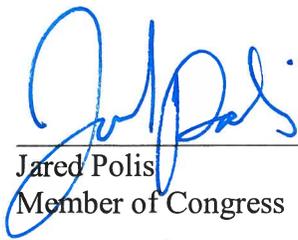

Martha McSally
Member of Congress


Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress


Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress


Donald Norcross
Member of Congress


Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Keith J. Rothfus
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



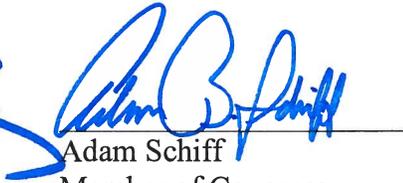
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



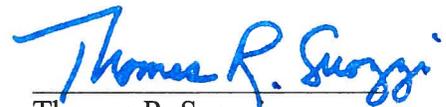
Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

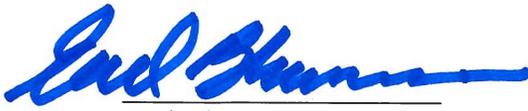
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress