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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0504

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER
CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

March 18, 2015

Chairman Mike Simpson
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
2362 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write regarding funding for three accounts in the upcoming appropriations legislation to fund energy and water activities for FY2016. The accounts are in the Department of Energy, Office of Science: the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Nuclear Energy, and Fossil Energy Research and Development programs.

These energy programs have been sold to the American public as focusing on advanced research and development initiatives that would transform our energy infrastructure, eliminate our dependence on foreign oil, and reduce energy prices. Sadly, like many of the activities undertaken by the Department of Energy, these programs have failed to live up to their supposed potential.

Instead, these programs have placed taxpayers in the role of venture capitalists and industry R&D departments, while producing scant if any real return for these ever-increasing obligations. These are investments that previously were made – and ought to be made in the future – by private investors with their own money based on their assessment of risk. Rather than rely on the best paid lobbyists and politically-powerful friends to secure government funds, these energy technologies, and all other initiatives, should compete equally on their own merits to obtain investments.

An amendment was offered for the FY 2015 to eliminate these egregious subsidies and 97 members of the House cast their votes in support. We respectfully request that the Committee include no funding for these programs in FY2016.

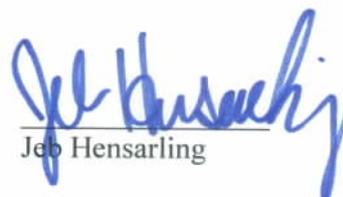
Sincerely,



Tom McClintock

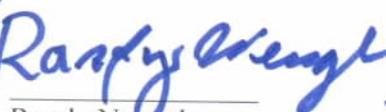


Walter Jones

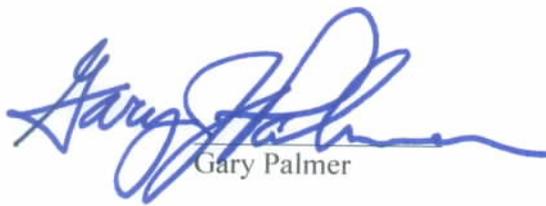


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