

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Director Young and Secretary Granholm:

As you work to develop Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget submissions, we urge you to request at least \$8 million to fund activities across federal agencies participating in the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization under the Department of Energy (DOE)'s State and Community Energy Program (SCEP).

The IWG is an initiative led by DOE, and implemented through a partnership of 11 federal agencies and Executive Office of the President offices working to spur economic revitalization, support workers, and create new jobs in communities affected by the energy transition. Thus far, the IWG has focused particularly on regions grappling with the challenges from the closure of coal-fired power plants and coal mines and the lost local revenue for core public services. Many of these communities also face deteriorating infrastructure, declining manufacturing jobs, insufficient access to healthcare, and lingering economic challenges from the COVID pandemic.

Congress has an obligation to invest in communities that have powered America for generations. We appreciate the funding you requested in FY24, which would allow the IWG to advance energy infrastructure projects, workforce development and training strategies, and environmental clean-up projects. With \$8 million in FY25, the IWG could expand its work to support economic development and diversification in more affected communities across the nation. That includes expanding its Rapid Response Team (RRT) capacity, which helps match federal resources with the unique needs of specific regions that have recently experienced or are anticipating fossil fuel facility closures. RRTs currently exist in four regions: Wyoming, the Four Corners, the Illinois Basin, and Eastern Kentucky. Additional funding is needed to build on this work and expand into new regions of the country.

Supporting these communities must be central to America's energy transition, and we cannot wait until they face economic disaster to act. The IWG can help these communities avoid further hardship and seize the opportunities of America's growing clean energy economy.

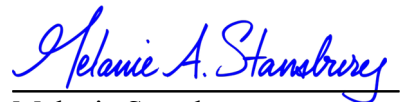
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We urge you to request at least \$8 million in FY25 funding to continue the IWG's work supporting our nation's energy communities.

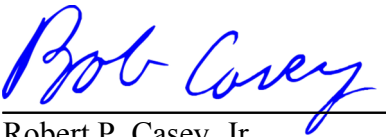
Sincerely,



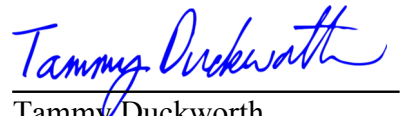
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



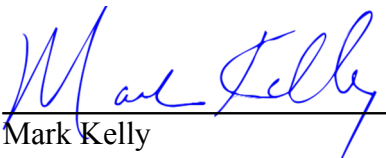
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator

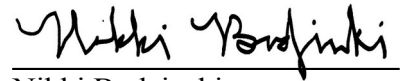


Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

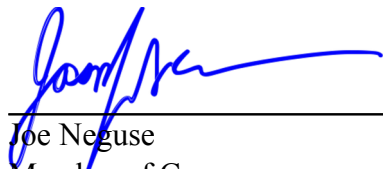
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Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



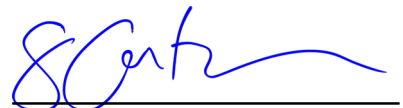
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress