

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

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
House Committee on Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
House Committee on Appropriations
2186 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kennedy, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As your committees develop their fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request at least \$8 million – in line with the President’s Budget – to fund activities across federal agencies participating in the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal & Power Plant Communities & Economic Revitalization under the Department of Energy (DOE).

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 health care, 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 provided in FY 2024, which allows the IWG to advance energy infrastructure projects, workforce development and training strategies, and environmental clean-up projects. With an appropriation of \$8 million in FY 2025, the IWG could expand its work to support economic development and diversification in 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 six regions: Wyoming, the Four Corners, the Illinois Basin, Eastern Kentucky, Appalachian Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Additional funding is needed to build on this work and expand into new regions of the country.

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

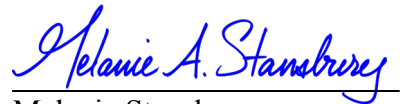
Supporting these communities must be central to America's energy transition, and we cannot wait until they face economic disaster to act. IWG can help these communities avoid further hardship and seize the opportunities of America's growing clean energy economy.

We urge you to provide the IWG with at least \$8 million in FY 2025 funding to continue its work supporting our nation's energy communities.

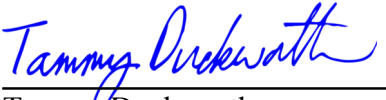
Sincerely,



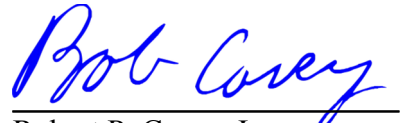
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



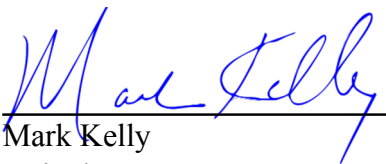
Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

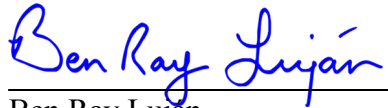


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

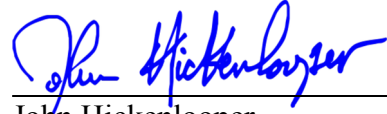


Tim Kaine
United States Senator

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



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



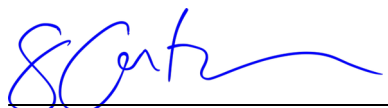
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Summer Lee
Member of Congress

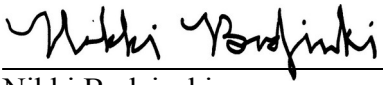


Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress

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



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress