

# United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
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

Dear Chair Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

As your committee develops its fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriations bill, we write to respectfully request \$8 million to fund activities across federal agencies participating in the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization, including \$5 million under the Department of Energy (DOE)'s State and Community Energy Program.

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 provided in FY 2023, which allowed the IWG to advance energy infrastructure projects, workforce development and training strategies, and environmental clean-up projects. With an appropriation of \$8 million, the IWG could expand its work to support economic development and diversification in communities across the nation that have historically relied on fossil fuel-related power generation, production, or extraction.

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 \$8 million in FY 2024 funding to continue its work supporting our nation's energy communities.

Sincerely,

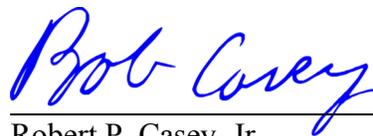
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



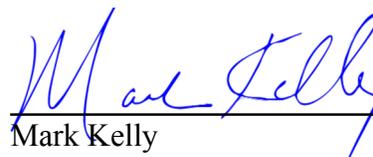
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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator