

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 28, 2022

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Energy & Water Appropriations
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Energy & Water Appropriations
1001 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Algae Caucus, we are writing to request that the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies again provide strong support for algae research and development through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO), and robust funding for algae and other innovative carbon capture and utilization systems under DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM).

In the FY23 Energy and Water bill, we encourage the Subcommittee to fund the BETO Advanced Algae Systems program at the level approved by Congress last year (\$40 million) and ask the Subcommittee to direct the FECM office to use existing authority to fund carbon utilization research and demonstration at levels commensurate with carbon capture and geologic storage. Specifically, we request funding of \$30 million for FECM Carbon Use and Reuse, with \$10 million of that designated for "research and development of carbon utilization using algal systems."

EERE - BETO - Advanced Algal Systems

In Fiscal Year 2022 the Subcommittee funded the BETO Advanced Algae Systems program at \$40 million, level funding with Fiscal Year 2021. A robust Advanced Algal Systems research and development program through BETO is essential to continuing the significant progress that has been made in algae-to-fuel technology, including algae-derived sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). DOE has effectively partnered with industry and academia to reduce the cost of algae fuel production by 98 percent since 2010, and it is now nearly cost-competitive, especially when partnered with animal feed, wastewater treatment, or other innovative co-products developed under this program. This investment will continue to put us on a long-term path toward fuel price stability, continued energy independence and energy security. Federal funding also leverages private investment thereby multiplying the impact of the federal contribution.

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FECM-Carbon Storage - Carbon Utilization

We ask for your continued support of non-geologic utilization activities under the "Carbon Utilization" sub-activity of the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Office's Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) program area, including biological utilization by algae and other microorganisms.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Subcommittee generously funded the Carbon Utilization program at \$29 million with language requiring that not less than \$8 million of that funding be used for "research and development of carbon utilization using algal systems."

Algae and other similar biological platforms have shown exceptional ability in pilot and demonstration projects throughout the country to convert CO₂ into low-carbon advanced biofuels, plastics, fish and animal feed, and fertilizer. DOE funding is essential to addressing issues including costs and yields, therefore, for the FY23 bill, we request \$30 million for carbon utilization, including \$10 million for "research and development of carbon utilization using algal systems."

We understand the Committee is facing many competing priorities and limited resources, but we respectfully request that you continue to support the progress that has already been made through investments in algae and biological carbon utilization research in the Fiscal Year 2023 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress