



April 28, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Energy & Water Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Ranking Member
Energy & Water Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Algae Caucus we are writing to request that Fiscal Year 2022 Energy and Water Appropriations 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 (FE).

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 FE office to use existing authority to fund carbon utilization research and demonstration at levels commensurate with carbon capture and geologic storage. Specifically, we request \$30 million for FE Carbon Use and Reuse and \$30 million for FE Direct Air Capture R&D.

EERE - BETO - Advanced Algal Systems

In Fiscal Year 2021 the Subcommittee funded the BETO Advanced Algae Systems program at \$40 million, level funding with Fiscal Year 2020. 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. 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 has and 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.

FE- 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 Office's Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) program area, including biological utilization by algae and other microorganisms.

In Fiscal Year 2021, the Subcommittee generously funded the Carbon Utilization program at \$23 million with language requiring that not less than \$8 million of that funding be used for "a competitive

solicitation to conduct tests of technologies for carbon dioxide absorption integrated with algae systems for capturing and reusing carbon dioxide to produce useful fuels and chemicals, giving priority for teams with university participants.” For Fiscal Year 2022, we are requesting an increase in Carbon Utilization to \$30 million with \$10 million for R&D of carbon utilization using algal systems.

FE - Carbon Capture - Direct Air Capture

Finally, we are requesting continued funding for the FE Office to conduct research and development for direct air capture (DAC) technologies, which represent a promising method of reducing atmospheric CO2 concentrations by removing CO2 directly from the ambient atmosphere and delivering it to productive use, increasing its potential for economic viability. In Fiscal Year 2021, the Committee provided \$15 million for FE research and development into direct air capture. Considering the tremendous potential for this technology, we urge the committee to provide a minimum of \$30 million for direct air capture in Fiscal Year 2022.

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 2022 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress