

SCOTT H. PETERS
52ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



2338 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-0508

4350 EXECUTIVE DRIVE, SUITE 105
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121
(858) 455-5550

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2020

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 2021 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 \$21 million for FE Direct Air Capture R&D.

EERE - BETO - Advanced Algal Systems

In Fiscal Year 2019 the Subcommittee funded the BETO Advanced Algae Systems program at \$32 million and provided \$40 million for the program in 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 Use and Reuse

We ask that you encourage DOE's FE office to fully support non-geologic utilization activities under the "Carbon Use and Reuse" sub-activity of its carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) program area, including biological utilization by algae and other microorganisms. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Subcommittee generously funded the Carbon Use and Reuse program at \$21 million. Given algae's tremendous progress to date and its future potential, we request that the Subcommittee provide \$30 million for Carbon Use and Reuse at a level complementary with the funding level for carbon capture and geologic storage. The CCUS program has provided a small amount of funding to algae CCU pilot projects in Kentucky, Florida and Michigan that are providing invaluable data on the performance of algae systems with power plant flue gas. But more work must be done, including at larger scales. The Carbon Use and Reuse sub-activity receives less than 1/10th of the funding provided to the Carbon Capture and Carbon Storage sub-activities. Technologies that monetize CO2 by converting it into valuable products offer the best hope for an economically viable platform for carbon reductions from coal and other sources of waste carbon.

FE - Carbon Capture - Direct Air Capture

Finally, we are requesting funding for the FE Office to conduct research and development into 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 2020, the Committee provided \$10 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 \$21 million for direct air capture in Fiscal Year 2021.

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 2021 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Andy Biggs
Member of Congress