



CONGRESS GIVES CRITICAL CLEAN ENERGY DIRECTION, INVESTMENTS

SEPT. 13, 2018 -- ClearPath Action applauds critical programmatic direction and eagle-eyed investments in advanced nuclear, carbon capture, grid-scale storage and other clean energy technologies included in the [FY19 Department of Energy spending bill](#).

“Congress again sent an undeniable message that lawmakers are serious about keeping the U.S. in the top tier of countries pursuing clean and reliable energy breakthroughs,” ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell said. “While steady and sufficient funding is essential, providing important direction and reforms to the DOE to make sure that dollars are well spent is equally vital to spurring energy innovation.”

Among the highlights:

Advanced Nuclear

- Prioritizes R&D of new advanced reactor designs by increasing the department’s reactor concepts program by \$96 million. This includes finishing the two cost-shared industry awards to Southern Company/TerraPower and X-energy, as well as furthering research on advanced small modular reactors (SMRs).
- Provides \$65 million for the versatile test reactor, a national lab facility critical to the development of advanced nuclear by private developers.
- Provides up to \$20 million for preparation and testing of high assay low-enriched uranium (HA-LEU), which will be needed to fuel many advanced nuclear reactors. DOE is also directed to provide Congress a timely report describing a plan and cost profile for developing a domestic HA-LEU supply.
- Allocates \$10 million in off-fee funding for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue developing a regulatory framework for non-light water reactors.

Carbon Capture

- Provides \$30+ million is provided for Front-End Engineering and Design (FEED) assistance for two commercial-scale carbon capture power projects, one to retrofit an existing coal plant and one for a coal or natural gas plant that generates CO2 suitable for utilization or storage. Public-private FEED partnerships is a cost-effective way for DOE to advance carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies within the R&D pipeline.

Energy Storage

- Allocates \$46 million (\$5 million increase) for energy storage research and development efforts spearheaded by the Office of Electricity Delivery.
- Establishes a new facility dedicated to scaling up domestic advanced battery manufacturing capabilities.

Energy Innovation

- Advances and fully funds the ongoing five-year R&D effort led by DOE's Energy Innovation Hubs - namely the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (developing extraordinary new batteries) and the Joint Center for Artificial Photosynthesis (using sunlight to turn water into clean hydrogen fuel).
- Provides a record \$366 million to the department's highly-successful ARPA-E effort.
- Specifically allocates, for the first time, part of the solar technologies office's resources (\$10 million) for perovskite solar R&D, which can lead to panels that are printable and painted and are potentially thinner and more efficient than today's panels.
- Continues support for the Title XVII Loan Guarantee Program, which helps finance the first commercial deployment of highly innovative technologies.

About ClearPath Action

Founded by businessman Jay Faison, ClearPath Action's mission is to accelerate conservative clean energy solutions. To advance the mission, ClearPath Action develops cutting-edge policy and messaging and works with policymakers and industry. Follow us on Twitter: @JayFaison1, @powellrich, @ClearPathAction