

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
2362-B Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kaptur, Chairman Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Energy and Water Development and Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, we request strong support for technologies and research to reduce emissions within the energy sector – specifically in natural gas development and its supply chain – and the highest possible funding for the relevant accounts to support these crucial programs. We also request that any funding appropriated for the accounts be utilized as Congress has directed. As our communities and energy industry grapple with mitigating the effects of climate change, we know that we must use available resources in increasingly sustainable ways that reduce their environmental impact. This includes research, development, and deployment of these critical technologies across the federal government. Staunch Congressional support for the development of these technologies is more important than ever, with President Trump intent on weakening United States (U.S.) innovation and scientific research.

In his first few months in office, President Trump perpetrated an unprecedented attack on the federal agencies that support and conduct scientific research and development on emissions

reducing technologies. These agencies support U.S. innovation, protect our environment, and benefit local economies across the country. In March 2025, Democratic staff on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee reviewed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to eliminate between 50 percent and 75 percent of the 1,540 positions in EPA's Office of Research and Development. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin also publicly expressed his goal of cutting EPA spending across the agency by 65 percent – a reduction in funding that would destroy the agency's ability to fulfil its statutory obligations. In February 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) fired an estimated 2,000 probationary employees to comply with President Trump and the Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) directive to reduce the federal workforce. While some of these employees were reinstated at the direction of a federal judge and placed on administrative leave, the New York Times estimates that DOE reduced its staff by 13 percent since President Trump took office, as of April 1, 2025. Gutting these agencies will dismantle decades of scientific progress, cripple U.S. competitiveness, and create instability in the industries they regulate.

Given President Trump's desire to defund, denounce, and deny science, Congress must provide and enforce robust funding for energy sector emissions reductions technologies and research. This common-sense effort is vital to advancing our energy economy in a sustainable way. Scientists have studied methane and carbon dioxide emissions for decades and continue to update estimates of emission contributions and impacts on climate change. Industry leaders, scientists, and environmental organizations have stated that we need to invest more in mitigating these emissions. The need for this funding is even more acute in FY26 since appropriations for these accounts were flat or decreased from FY24 to FY25.

Within DOE's Fossil Research and Development Account, this includes the Methane Mitigation Technologies program. The program seeks to develop new methods, technologies, and research into limiting emissions from natural gas pipeline and storage infrastructures. This could include research into new and novel approaches to methane sensors, new leak detection systems, early detection techniques or technologies for factors leading to unintended releases, or equipment features and upgrades to prevent methane releases. The program also will help accurately determine the extent and source of these emissions. This type of research is especially important as industry, research institutions, and government entities assess and consider pathways towards reducing carbon emissions. We urge the Committee to include the highest possible funding levels for this account.

We also urge the Committee to include the highest possible funding levels for *Clean Air Act* programs that aim to reduce emissions. This includes funding of the Environment & Management account, Science & Technology account, and State & Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account at the EPA to benefit methane mitigation work across the country. Limiting methane emissions requires a multi-departmental and cooperative approach across federal and state governments, and this critical funding facilitates that joint approach.

DOE's Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Office conducts important work through their Advanced Remediation Technologies program for technologies that would reduce the environmental impact of produced water and for opportunities to reprocess produced water onsite. The department works with states, other government agencies, and non-governmental

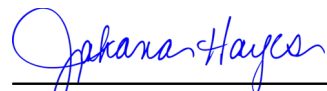
organizations to develop tools to aid operators in meeting the environmental and economic challenges in managing produced water. We request the highest possible funding for this program to ensure that produced water is sufficiently treated to reduce its environmental impact and counteract the emissions that frequently result from this byproduct being shipped off-site for treatment.

We greatly appreciate your continued efforts to improve the sustainability of our country's energy sector. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



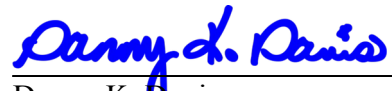
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Member of Congress



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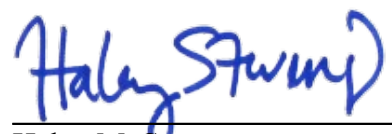
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



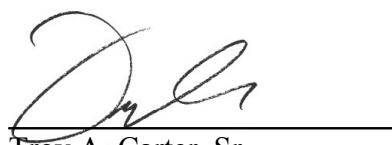
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



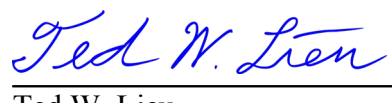
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



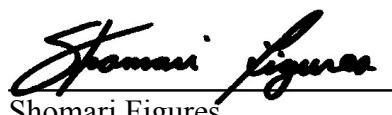
Haley M. Stevens
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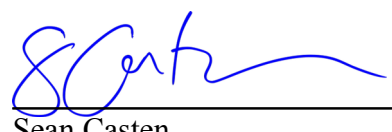
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