May 15, 2018

The Honorable Christopher Coons
U.S. Senate
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
U.S. Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Coons and Graham:

The undersigned organizations are happy to express our support for S. 2257 – the IMPACT for Energy Act – and its companion bill, H.R. 4700.

We welcome your bipartisan and bicameral effort to establish the IMPACT for Energy Foundation, a nonprofit foundation that will channel private-sector investments to help support the creation, development and commercialization of next generation energy technologies at the Department of Energy (DOE). We also appreciate your leadership in introducing this legislation, which would help capitalize on the federal government’s investments in clean energy research and development by attracting private sector investment and partnership, as well as philanthropic donations.

Modeled after the successful Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), the IMPACT for Energy Foundation would be a new source of supplemental funding for DOE. Since its creation in 1996, FNIH has raised more than $1 billion dollars for the agency. Additionally, the Veterans Administration, Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense also receive support from foundations that were established by Congress. We agree that it is time for DOE to have a foundation of its own.

Given today’s complex energy challenges, viable solutions often require multiple partners in both the public and private sectors. We appreciate this bill’s aim to enhance collaboration and partnerships between researchers from the federal government, universities, industry and nonprofit organizations.

No longer the undisputed world leader in innovation, your IMPACT for Energy Act comes at a time when the U.S. must renew its commitment to global leadership in science and technology. By providing a new potential funding stream for research and improving relationships between the public and private sectors, your legislation will help accelerate innovation, strengthen the U.S. economy and bolster our global competitiveness.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to improving America’s scientific enterprise.

Sincerely,

American Chemical Society
American Physical Society
American Society for Engineering Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Public & Land-grant Universities
Michigan Technological University
The State University of New York System
The University of South Carolina

Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
Stony Brook University
University of California System
University of Delaware
University of New Mexico