The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Energy and Water and Related Agencies Subcommittee
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

Dear Ranking Member DeLauro and Ranking Member Kaptur,

The undersigned groups urge you to reject the House's proposed cuts to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and protect its long-standing mandate. The Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) House Energy & Water appropriations bill rebrands the EERE account as Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) and funds it at $1.9 billion—roughly 40% below the FY 2026 enacted level for the former EERE account—sharply reducing resources for EERE's core efficiency and renewables mission. We are deeply concerned that these actions undermine a proven federal clean energy innovation ecosystem at a time of rising energy demand and volatility, global supply chain challenges, and intensifying international competition. This represents a significant shift away from research and development for the next generation of clean, affordable energy.

EERE's technology offices have long punched above their weight by turning American ingenuity into real-world benefits for families, businesses, and communities. Independent analyses find that between 1975 and 2015, about $12 billion in EERE research and development generated more than $388 billion in net economic benefits, a benefit-to-cost ratio of more than 30 to 1. These returns come from reducing energy waste and utility bills and enabling more efficient vehicles, buildings, and industrial processes. These programs have also supported a clean energy workforce that added jobs faster than the broader energy sector, helped to catalyze private investment in renewable and energy-efficient technologies, and in 2025, the clean power technologies that EERE advances—wind, solar, and battery storage—made up more than 90% of all power electricity capacity added to the U.S. grid. Together, EERE offices function as a coherent applied-innovation ecosystem that links universities, national laboratories, companies, workers, and communities in every region of the country.

Despite this historic success, the DOE announced an internal realignment in November of 2025 that placed the majority of EERE's programs within CMEI, an office now responsible for tens of billions in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act funding (e.g., the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, battery grants)—far more than the rest of DOE's basic science and many innovation offices combined. While DOE may change its internal structure, Congress appropriated funds in FY26 to the EERE account and to the missions its technology offices have long carried out which are essential to America's energy future, economic growth, and national security. In principle, CMEI could be structured to provide balanced attention and resources to its clean energy portfolio, however, early implementation and funding decisions under this new structure have instead created uncertainty about the future of core technology programs, including solar, wind, hydrogen and fuel cells, vehicles, buildings, industry, bioenergy, water power, and advanced materials and manufacturing.

Recent DOE decisions conflict with Congress's clear direction for EERE and related clean energy initiatives. Actions such as terminating or freezing research projects, sharply slowing new investments and redirecting remaining funds from their intended uses are already causing disruptions, including at

DOE's national laboratories, which are essential partners on many EERE projects. If enacted, the proposed severe cuts would entrench this damage by depriving these programs of the resources needed to deliver public benefits.

- First, several longstanding EERE offices have been removed from DOE's organizational chart or have had their budgets nearly eliminated, and remaining programs are being shifted away from their missions of advancing clean energy deployment, reducing energy costs, and supporting U.S. manufacturing and workforce development. Preserving these programs in name only, while redirecting funds to narrower or unrelated activities, will not achieve the affordability, reliability, and innovation outcomes Congress has historically sought from EERE investments.
- Second, DOE recent spending data show that EERE's base-appropriation awards have significantly declined in FY25, resulting in a 50 to 89 percent drop in new obligations across applied energy offices compared to the FY20–24 average. This steep decline in awards and obligations suggests that, even where Congress has provided funding, EERE programs are not being fully carried out.

Many of EERE's benefits are felt most acutely by households and small businesses that have the least capacity to absorb higher energy costs. EERE-supported efficiency programs have reduced U.S. energy intensity, allowing homes, schools, hospitals, and factories to do more with less energy. Initiatives such as weatherization, efficient appliances and equipment, and better building envelopes and controls have delivered energy bill savings, particularly for low-income households and underserved communities. At a time when families are still grappling with inflationary pressures and higher costs of living, weakening the federal programs that provide these targeted savings would be a step backwards.

With rising electricity demand and increasing global investments in clean energy, the United States cannot afford to lose ground in the very technologies that will define the next generation of economic competitiveness. Robust and well-directed investments in EERE and its subprograms are essential to ensuring that the United States continues to develop and deploy clean energy technologies, maintain and train a skilled workforce, and build efficient, resilient domestic manufacturing and supply chains.

We therefore respectfully urge you to:

- Reject the proposed cuts to EERE subprograms in the House-proposed FY27 Energy & Water appropriations bill and ensure the core functions of EERE are not abandoned; and
- Include clear bill and report language stating that funds for these programs are to be used to advance cost-effective, grid-connected clean energy, energy efficiency, and industrial decarbonization in line with each office's long-standing mission, and not diverted to unrelated or narrower applications that do not lower energy costs or reduce emissions for American households and businesses.

By taking these steps, Congress can preserve the programs that have long driven federal progress on energy efficiency and clean energy deployment and keep the United States at the forefront of a rapidly evolving global energy economy.

Sincerely,

Natural Resources Defense Council
Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy
Carbon180
Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) Action Fund
Climate Mayors
E2
êffecterra, inc.
Elevate
Environmental Defense Fund
Kids for Saving Earth
League of Conservation Voters
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
National Wildlife Federation
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Tandem PV
Third Way
Union of Concerned Scientists

CC: House Appropriations Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee