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The Large Public Power Council

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May 4, 2007

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gordon:

The Large Public Power Council (LPPC) represents 24 of the largest public power systems in the United States, providing electric power to 40 million consumers in 11 states and Puerto Rico. LPPC is pleased to respond to your letter requesting comment on H.R. 364 which establishes a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E) within the Department of Energy (DOE).

LPPC agrees with you that the combination of sustained investment in energy research programs and a new focus on innovative and aggressive new energy technologies is key for the US to meet its long-term energy challenges. LPPC thinks ARPA-E may be a good mechanism to provide this new focus on innovative, high risk/high reward energy technologies. We very much like the idea of addressing energy efficiency as well as traditional and alternative energy sources within the scope of ARPA-E.

LPPC believes the goal of ARPA-E should be expanded. The current goal is to reduce dependence on foreign energy sources by 20% over the next 10 years; this means ARPA-E will focus on transportation and other petroleum-consuming sectors of the economy. While this is an important goal, there are important technology breakthroughs needed for every sector (e.g. electric utility and industrial) that will significantly reduce their energy use and corresponding environmental impacts. LPPC suggests for ARPA-E a broader goal of developing technologies that significantly reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustained investment is necessary to truly enable key research. The idea of a dedicated funding source should be explored as a means to provide sustained funding for ARPA-E. We also believe adequate funding for energy R & D is very important. In fact, resources for energy R & D must be increased from current levels. LPPC does not believe funding for H.R. 364 should come from redirected funding for existing energy R & D programs.

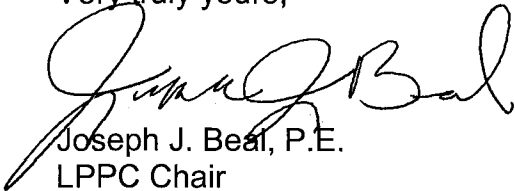
Austin Energy (TX) • Chelan County PUD (WA) • CPS Energy (TX) • Clark Public Utilities (WA) • Colorado Springs Utilities (CO)
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LPPC believes the legislation creating ARPA-E should more fully articulate the relationship between ARPA-E and the DOE's existing R & D programs. We do like the degree of flexibility given to the Director and Secretary in order to advance ARPA-E's mission. The success of R & D programs is ultimately linked to deployment of new technologies. The Science Committee should work with other committees in the House to ensure a seamless transition from development of new technologies, commercial applications, and through to deployment.

We thank you and the Committee for the opportunity to present our views on this important addition to our nation's research and development portfolio. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-776-5272, ext. 3586.

Very truly yours,



Joseph J. Beal, P.E.
LPPC Chair