

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu U.S. Secretary of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

As you consider proposals for the Batteries and Energy Storage Innovation Hub, we write to express our strong support for the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR) proposal.

JCESR is a remarkable collaboration among research and private sector partners led by Argonne National Laboratory. The partnership includes: Lawrence Berkeley, Pacific Northwest, Sandia, and SLAC National Accelerator laboratories, University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Michigan, and Northwestern University. The addition of industrial partners in A123, Applied Materials, Dow Chemical, and Johnson Controls completes an innovation team with unparalleled depth, breadth, and experience.

With its combined experience, JCESR holds great promise for transformational returns on the federal government's R&D investment. This proposal will develop more effective, lower cost and longer-life energy storage technologies. The collaboration will also ensure that technologies are scalable and appropriate for commercial application.

JCESR's contribution to energy storage progress will be key to advancing America's energy security, ensuring more sustainable energy utilization, and improving quality of life for U.S. consumers. For this reason, we ask that you give the JCESR proposal every consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Durbi U.S. Senator

Mark Kirk

U.S. Senator

enator

U.S. Senator

Carl Levin U.S. Senator

Tom Udall U.S. Senator

Dianne Feinstein

U.S. Senator

Patty Murray

U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell U.S. Senator

Barbara Boxer U.S. Senator