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June 24, 2009

The Honorable Byron Dorgan  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Bennett  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE.: Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations for the RE-ENERGYSE Program**

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Bennett,

I am writing to urge you to support \$115 million for the Department of Energy's "Regaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge (RE-ENERGYSE)" program as proposed in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2010 budget request. The proposed program includes several innovative graduate education provisions within the \$80 million higher education section.

Investing in graduate students is an investment in the future talent our country desperately needs to address the challenges of creating clean and renewable energy resources. The RE-ENERGYSE program outline includes funding to support up to 200 three-year fellowships for doctoral students and up to 200 one-year postdoctoral opportunities. These investments in graduate education would invigorate research in "green" technologies and prepare the workforce necessary for the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

Along with the funding for students, the program would also grant competitive awards for four "Clean Energy University Collaborations," each of which would develop and offer a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Energy Studies, focused on clean energy. By offering new degree programs, and the sustained support to interested students outlined above, the Department of Energy estimates that "the Higher Education subprogram will result in the development of leading edge undergraduate and graduate programs and between 5,000 and 8,500 highly educated scientists, engineers, and other professionals to enter the clean energy field by 2015; and approximately 10,000 to 17,000 professionals by 2020."

We respectfully request that you support the appropriation of \$115 million for the RE-ENERGYSE program and the \$80 million within it designated for higher education programs. This exciting new program has the potential to attract and retain students in science and engineering fields and harness their enthusiasm and intelligence in addressing the challenge of building a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Debra W. Stewart  
President

cc: Members of the Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development

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