

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Committee on Appropriations
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write to request your support for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado, through maintaining level funding for the lab within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Office of Science in the fiscal year 2020 (FY20). We also ask for an increase of \$5 million above the President's request of \$107 million for NREL's facilities and infrastructure fund in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill (\$112 million total). NREL is the Department of Energy's primary national laboratory responsible for advancing science and technology in energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation, and systems integration.

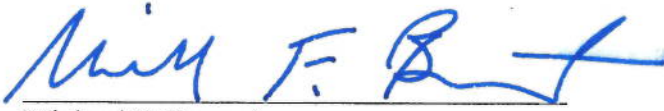
NREL has produced world-class research over the last four decades that has enabled the lab to contribute greatly to American innovation and security. The lab's work stimulates the local and U.S. economy, inspires entrepreneurial ingenuity, and provides the diverse energy options needed to preserve the nation's national security. The most recent study of NREL's economic impact was completed in 2015 and showed a total annual economic benefit of \$872.3 million nationwide.

NREL has had a significant role in research to overcome many technical and economic challenges needed to advance first-generation technologies such as wind, solar photovoltaics, and electric vehicles. Continuing to support some of America's best innovators at NREL, who research and develop cutting-edge technologies, will help our country remain competitive and will inspire entrepreneurial ingenuity while benefiting taxpayers.

We request a small increase of \$5 million in FY20 to address the shortage of lab space issues, facility maintenance, and make necessary cybersecurity improvements.

We appreciate the robust funding provided in the FY19 omnibus and urge you to maintain level funding for NREL programs and increase the NREL facilities and infrastructure fund \$5 million in the in the FY20 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael F. Bennet in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Cory Gardner in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Cory Gardner
United States Senator