October 29, 2019

RE: More Than 70 Associations Support the Renewable Energy Extension Act

Dear Members of Congress,

As organizations representing citizens, consumers, and businesses in all 50 states, we write to ask you to cosponsor H.R. 3961 introduced by Congressman Thompson and Congressman Cook or S.2289 introduced by Senator Cortez-Masto. Both bills would continue the Section 48 and Section 25D Investment Tax Credit (ITC) at the 30% level for five years. The federal ITC has been a critical innovation policy creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, lowering electricity prices for families and businesses, reducing carbon emissions, and maintaining America’s competitive edge in emerging energy technologies. With the ITC set to begin ramping down in 2020, now is the time to continue this important policy.

First signed into law by President George W Bush as part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act, the federal ITC continues to play a critical role in driving energy innovation and American technological leadership. Over 300,000 Americans work in the industries affected by the ITC—solar, fuel cells, geothermal heat pumps, distributed wind, combined heat and power systems, and micro-turbines. This is more than double the number that worked in these industries less than a decade ago. Whether it is a farmer or a rancher in a rural community, a small business, or a homeowner, the tax credits are helping deploy innovative technologies, create jobs, and improve the energy efficiency of homes and commercial buildings.

The ITC has also been one of the nation’s most important and successful climate policies. According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), since the mid-2000s when the ITC was first enacted, the greenhouse gas intensity of the electricity sector has dropped by 25%. This emissions reduction has been aided in no small part by the rapid expansion of clean, ITC eligible technologies. A five-year extension of the ITC will accelerate this progress as it enables continued economies of scale and cost reductions.

Energy innovation should be a cornerstone of America’s competitiveness strategy. The countries that pioneer the next generation of energy technologies will deepen geopolitical alliances and exert soft power by exporting advanced, clean energy technologies across the globe. It is in America’s interest to maintain policies like the federal ITC that ensure that these innovations are pioneered in America.

Thank you for your service and please consider cosponsoring H.R. 3961 or S.2289 to accelerate America’s leadership in creating the next generation of clean energy jobs.

Respectfully,

1 https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f3708fa0d6036d7120d8f/155184905459/USEER+2019+US+Energy+Employment+Report.pdf

Alabama Solar Industries Association
Alliance for Clean Energy New York
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Solar Grazing Association
Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
California Geothermal Heat Pump Association
Colorado Solar and Storage Association
Combined Heat and Power Alliance
Connecticut Geothermal Association
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Distributed Wind Energy Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC)
Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Energy Association
Geothermal Alliance of Illinois
Geothermal Exchange Organization
Hawai'i Solar Energy Association
Hawaii PV Coalition
Illinois Solar Energy Association
International District Energy Association (IDEA)
Iowa Geothermal Association
League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
Maryland, DC, and Virginia Solar Energy Industries Association
Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council
Michigan Geothermal Energy Association
Microgrid Resource Coalition
Minnesota Geothermal Heat Pump Association
Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Association
National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO)
National Association of Home Builders
National Audubon Society
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Farmers Union
National Ground Water Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
New York Geothermal Energy Organization
New York Solar Energy Industries Association
NJ Fuel Cell Coalition
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition
Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Oregon Solar Energy Industries Association
Pennsylvania Geothermal Heat Pump Association
People Power Now
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling-Contractors – National Association

Refrigeration Service Engineers Society

Renew Wisconsin

Renewable Energy Vermont

Solar Energy & Storage Association of Puerto Rico

Solar Energy Industries Association

Solar United Neighbors

Solar United Neighbors of AZ

Solar United Neighbors of CO

Solar United Neighbors of DC

Solar United Neighbors of FL

Solar United Neighbors of MD

Solar United Neighbors of MN

Solar United Neighbors of NJ

Solar United Neighbors of OH

Solar United Neighbors of PA

Solar United Neighbors of TX

Solar United Neighbors of VA

Solar United Neighbors of WV

South Dakota Renewable Energy Association

TechNet

The Society for College and University Planning

Utah Center for Civic Improvement

Virginia Geothermal Heat Pump Association

Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives

Windustry

Wisconsin Geothermal Association