

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 205

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies bill, we urge you include robust resources for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) – Bioenergy Technologies Program.

The Bioenergy Technologies Program utilizes private and public partnerships to accelerate the development of cost-competitive technologies for producing advanced biofuels from our nation's abundant domestic supply of biomass. In addition to utilizing otherwise unusable bi-products such as waste and agricultural residue, these programs use energy crops such as switchgrass and algae to create high value chemicals and energy products without disrupting agricultural markets for food or animal feed.

For example, the Office of EERE has collaborated with Arizona State University to develop the successful Algae Testbed, ATP³. This innovative venture utilizes cutting edge technology where data is gathered on algae science to advance more robust and commercially viable algal biofuels and useful by-products. Besides ASU, the innovative research of the Bioenergy Technology Program stretches across the country with public-private partnerships and collaborators that include the Georgia Institute of Technology; California Polytechnic State University; Non-profit UTEX in Texas; national labs; as well as leading algal science companies in multiple states.

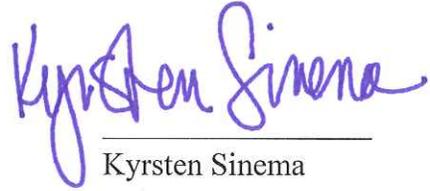
Given the benefits this forward-looking program provides public research institutions and private commercial developers across the nation, we urge strong support for the Bioenergy Technology Program during FY17 appropriation considerations.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S." The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyrsten Sinema". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "K" and a long, flowing "S".

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress