November 5, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader 
Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building 
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader U.S. Senate U.S. 
322 Hart Senate Office Building 
Washington, DC 20150

RE: Strong Support for Energy and Environmental Legislation

Dear Senator McConnell and Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry -- we urge you to move legislation addressing energy technology and innovation through the Senate this Fall.

We find that climate change is an important national priority that calls for Congressional action. The Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Environment and Public Works have recently approved several bills that promote the development of new technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These initiatives – which have strong bipartisan support – advance real solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change in a way that also bolsters American technological leadership in this critical area. The bills generally fall into two broad categories:

Nuclear, Storage, and Energy Efficiency Technologies:

- S. 903, the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA), would recharge American leadership in nuclear energy by unequivocally facilitating the development of next generation nuclear energy resources.
- S. 1602, the Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act, would support advances in battery storage technologies, strengthening electric grid integration of renewables and also adding adaptive resilience.
- S. 2137, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, would improve the energy efficiency of buildings, industries and manufacturers, and the federal government as well as improve energy security and environmental performance.

Reducing Emissions, Improving Environmental Performance:

- S. 383, the Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act, which would advance CO2 utilization and direct air capture research, permitting and development.
• S. 1201, the Enhancing Fossil Fuel Energy Carbon Technology (EFFECT) Act of 2019, which would authorize DOE to support the development of technologies that improve the efficiency, effectiveness, costs, and environmental performance of coal and natural gas use.

While more needs to be done, these and other pending initiatives will advance energy innovation and environmental performance that, together with adaptation and other actions already taken by Congress, will provide a more integrated and cost-effective approach to meet the critical economic, environmental, and infrastructure challenges associated with climate change.

Thank you for your consideration and support, and we look forward to working with you to achieve passage of these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Linda Bauer Darr
President and CEO