



May 7, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Energy & Water Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy
Energy & Water Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Energy & Water Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Energy & Water Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water Development:

The undersigned 40+ businesses, trade associations, nonprofits, and other organizations are writing to request **robust funding for Technical Assistance & Workforce Development for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) including no less than \$12,000,000 for the Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs) program and continuation of the Better Plants Challenge within the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Innovation, Affordability, and Consumer Choice.**

Together, the Onsite Energy TAPs and the Better Buildings Challenge represent a highly cost-effective federal investment that delivers measurable benefits to American businesses, workers, and the broader economy. Both programs advance the Administration's stated priorities of supporting domestic manufacturing, enhancing grid reliability, and strengthening American energy security. The TAPs provide direct technical assistance to manufacturers, data centers, and other forms of critical infrastructure on onsite energy technologies—including combined heat and power (CHP), waste heat recovery, geothermal, and thermal energy storage—enabling businesses to lower energy costs, reduce reliance on the grid, and strengthen operational resilience. The Better Plants Challenge partners with over 300 leading U.S. manufacturers and wastewater treatment agencies to set and achieve ambitious energy, water, and waste reduction goals. By partnering directly with industry, Better Plants helps American manufacturers boost efficiency, increase reliability, and strengthen economic competitiveness; since 2011, the program has generated \$24.2 billion in cumulative cost savings that have been reinvested into jobs and domestic economic growth.

The requested funding level for the Technical Assistance and Workforce Development subprogram in the Industrial Technology Office is consistent with the bipartisan Senate FY25 energy and water development report (S. Rept. 118-205, p. 90) and the bicameral Joint Explanatory Statement for FY23 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 Committee Print, p. 911).

Concerns Regarding the FY27 Budget Justification

The President's FY27 Budget Justification proposes to "deprioritize broad industry-wide programs like the Better Plants Challenge and the Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships" in favor of narrower utility-grid partnerships for data centers. We strongly urge Congress to reject this reorientation. Both programs already serve data centers and large industrials and improve overall grid reliability—eliminating them would undermine the very objectives the FY27 budget seeks to advance.



Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs) Justification

For nearly two decades, DOE's regional TAP network has delivered technical support to businesses considering onsite energy solutions. The FY27 budget justification prioritizes “waste-heat recovery” and “next-generation efficiency technologies”—technologies that the TAPs already support—making defunding the program counterproductive.

The TAPs have a proven track record of providing technical support to data centers across the United States. The First National Bank of Omaha, assisted by the Central TAP, installed a CHP system at its 195,000-square-foot data center in 2013 and has experienced zero outages since. Southwestern Energy in Texas—the third largest natural gas producer in the continental U.S.—worked with the Southcentral TAP to install a CHP system at its data center, saving the business over \$12,000 annually. The TAPs also support workforce development by coordinating with the Departments of Labor and Commerce to retrain and upskill workers needed for advanced manufacturing—ensuring the correct and cost effective implementation and maintenance of new technologies.

The Onsite Energy TAPs have been supported in a bipartisan manner beginning in the first Trump Administration. In FY18, the House and Senate both recommended that of the \$30M provided for the Industrial Technical Assistance program, \$5M be dedicated for ongoing support of the CHP TAPs and \$7M for related CHP activities ([Division D – Energy & Water Development Statement FY18, p. 32](#)). Similarly, in FY22, the House and Senate both recommended not less than \$13M in funding to provide ongoing support for the CHP TAPs and related CHP activities ([Division D – Energy & Water Development Statement FY22, p. 45](#)), and in FY23 the House and Senate both recommended up to \$15M in funding to provide ongoing support for the CHP TAPs and related CHP activities ([Division D – Energy & Water Development Statement FY23, p. 58](#)).

With robust FY27 funding of no less than \$12,000,000, the Onsite Energy TAPs would enhance engagement with policymakers and utilities, accelerate onsite energy deployment for critical infrastructure—including data centers, food processing facilities, hospitals, military bases, and schools—and enhance grid resilience for millions of American energy customers.

Better Plants Challenge Justification

The Better Plants Challenge is one of the most broadly supported voluntary industrial efficiency initiatives in the country, with more than 300 industrial organizations participating to date. By partnering directly with manufacturers and wastewater treatment agencies to set measurable efficiency, water, and waste reduction targets, Better Plants uncovers cost savings that can be reinvested into the workforce and domestic economy—strengthening American competitiveness rather than ceding ground to foreign rivals. The program's \$24.2 billion in cumulative savings since 2011 reflects a practical, results-driven model that delivers clear returns on federal investment. **We urge continued funding for Better Plants at levels consistent with prior years to sustain this record of success.**

Conclusion

We urge the House and Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittees to support robust FY27 funding for both programs—specifically, no less than \$12,000,000 for the Onsite Energy TAPs—under the Technical Assistance and Workforce Development subprogram. These programs help businesses lower energy costs, bolster grid reliability, support American manufacturing jobs, and advance the Administration's own energy priorities. Their continued funding is a sound, bipartisan investment in American energy security and economic competitiveness.



Respectfully,

2G Energy Inc.

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Array Industries Inc.

Bloom Energy

BROAD U.S.A. Inc

Capstone Green Energy

Cascade Energy

Combined Heat and Power Alliance

CSA Group

Delve Energy Group

DT Energy Consultants

EC POWER Inc.

Energy and Water Development LLC

Energy Pathways

Energy Spectrum, Brooklyn, NY

Force Energy Corporation

H2e Power System Inc

Heat is Power Association

International District Energy Association

Kanin Energy

Kraft Power Corp / Kraft Energy Systems

Martin Energy Group

Microgrid Architect

Midwest Cogeneration Association

Morristown Medical Center

NLine Energy, Inc.

NY Chapter Association of Engineers

Paalink Energy

Plummer Associates, Inc.

Power Equipment Associates, LTD

RSP Systems

Secure Source Energy

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)

Shoreline Energy Advisors

Southland Industries

Sterling Energy, LLC

TEDOM USA Inc.

Think Microgrid

Unison Energy

University of Minnesota

Washington State University