



14 June 2010

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4204

Dear Senator Alexander

The IEEE USA and GridWise Alliance have joined forces to urge your support for the Department of Energy's "REgaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge" (RE-ENERGYSE) program. We support the Administration's request of \$55 million for this important new energy education and training program in its FY2011 budget.

RE-ENERGYSE is a Department of Energy and National Science Foundation partnership focused on applied science and engineering. The program will help students and workers learn skills needed to solve practical energy challenges, such as deploying clean energy and energy efficiency technologies, as well as essential enabling smart grid technologies. RE-ENERGYSE will also help the Department's applied energy programs engage with universities to enhance the Federal government's research and development enterprise.

In the near future, the U.S. energy workforce will experience a major wave of retirements, losing 40 to 50 percent over the next five years in some jobs. RE-ENERGYSE provides \$6M in technical training and \$9M in education and outreach to help our nation replace this retiring workforce and to equip workers to design, plan, operate and maintain the increasing investment in advanced energy technologies.

RE-ENERGYSE is also needed to boost our nation's capability for innovation. To successfully and economically deploy new energy technologies, we need to attract, equip and incentivize more students in higher education. RE-ENERGYSE will provide \$40M to support fellowships, internships, scholarships, and new masters programs. This Federal leadership is critical in empowering students to be innovators for achieving our nation's energy and environmental objectives.

The research and development enterprise will also lose expertise due to retirements. For example, 40 percent of faculty in electric power engineering will reach retirement age in the next five years

Supporting higher education to advance innovation in energy technologies will attract educators and researchers into the applied science and engineering fields.

Our groups fully support the modest \$55M investment that can leverage increased productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness. RE-ENERGYSE will advance a clean energy and energy efficient economy which will remain competitive in global markets; we urge your support for this appropriation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Hamilton".

Katherine Hamilton
President, GridWise Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Day".

Gordon Day
IEEE-USA Past President