

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

In order to ensure continued U.S. leadership in battery technologies, we implore you to ensure that the Department's implementation of funds authorized in Section 40207 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) advances a diverse portfolio of market-ready technologies that includes both lithium and non-lithium alternative battery chemistries.

To date, all programmatic funding awards for IIJA Section 40207(b) were for projects related to the lithium-ion battery supply chain.¹ We are pleased to see this funding awarded and recognize the importance of domestic lithium-ion batteries, especially in the transportation sector. However, going forward the Department should also seek to accelerate the deployment of domestic alternative battery manufacturing for grid-scale battery energy storage, in addition to lithium-ion technologies, in line with Congressional intent.

According to the DOE's recent report on supply chains for grid energy storage "ensuring more than one technology and different chemistries among the options for grid energy storage systems will increase the resiliency of the overall supply chain."² In December of 2022, Congress provided additional clarity and direction to the Department via report language expressing the desire for a wide array of battery chemistries.

"The agreement notes the Department's efforts to expand the capabilities of the United States in advanced battery manufacturing for long-duration grid-scale energy storage. As the Department continues its efforts to scale up a domestic advanced battery supply chain, including battery manufacturing demonstration projects, **the Department is encouraged to seek a broad spectrum of battery chemistries not wholly exclusive to lithium-ion based battery technology** and encourages the Department to craft grant solicitations widely enough to include all compelling emerging technologies such as

¹Department of Energy, Battery Materials Processing and Battery Manufacturing Fact Sheet: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/DOE%20BIL%20Battery%20FOA-2678%20Selectee%20Fact%20Sheets.pdf>

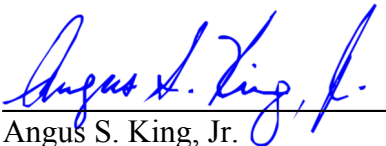
² Department of Energy, Grid Energy Storage Supply Chain Deep Dive Assessment: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/Energy%20Storage%20Supply%20Chain%20Report%20-%20final.pdf>

multi-day storage (MDS) chemistries such as iron-air batteries or other new configurations.”³

Battery energy storage will play a crucial role in the clean energy future and increasing domestic advanced battery manufacturing presents an important opportunity to restore and diversify our nation’s energy supply chains while creating thousands of high paying clean energy jobs.

We thank the Department for its efforts to date and look forward to working with the Administration on achieving these priorities.

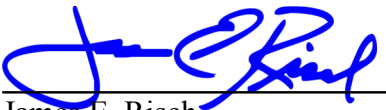
Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

³ Division D, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act Fiscal year 2023, Explanatory Statement, Page 59: <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Division%20D%20-%20Energy%20&%20Water%20Statement%20FY23.pdf>