Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write to express our strong support for the fusion energy and plasma science research programs funded by the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) within the Department of Energy's Office of Science. We greatly appreciate your committee's longstanding and bipartisan support for both the DOE Office of Science and FES and request that you continue to provide robust funding for these programs in fiscal year (FY) 2024.

Fusion energy promises to be a safe, clean, and sustainable energy source that can provide the United States with energy independence and a nearly limitless energy supply. It is the ideal energy source to operate at high capacity, 24 hours a day and year-round, regardless of weather and sunlight. Additionally, fusion energy is created without carbon emissions or long-lived radioactive waste. This firm energy source would be transformational for our long-term energy needs and combating climate change.

Fusion energy research is also critical for American global competition—it drives innovation in important areas of science and technology, has bred a first-rate fusion workforce in the United States, and has resulted in far-reaching scientific discoveries and spinoffs that benefit a wide range of sectors, including high-tech manufacturing, 21st century materials, and national security. Producing fusion energy in the U.S. must be a key component of the country's energy security strategy.

More than ever before, the United States is ready to begin moving toward commercial fusion energy. Private sector and graduate student interest is surging as the field continues to reach scientific and technological milestones, including the recent "fusion ignition" breakthrough at the National Ignition Facility—a major scientific milestone that was decades in the making. In addition, construction on the international ITER project is nearly 80 percent complete and DOE has launched the Milestone-Based Fusion Development Program, which supports private entities —in partnership with national laboratories, universities, and other partners—working to achieve technical and commercialization milestones, including designs for a fusion power plant.

These developments are accompanied by a community-developed long-range plan to advance discovery plasma science, build new test facilities, and prepare for a fusion energy pilot plant, as well as two National Academies of Sciences reports on "Bringing U.S. Fusion to the Grid" and

"Plasma Science: Enabling Technology, Sustainability, Security, and Exploration. Taken together, these developments make it clear that the promise of fusion energy is within our grasp. As the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC) report itself notes, "**Now is the time to move aggressively toward the deployment of fusion energy, which could substantially power modern society while mitigating climate change**."

As the FY 2024 appropriations process begins, we respectfully request that the Committee provide $1.043B for the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences, as authorized in the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. We are at a critical juncture to fusion energy's progress; now is the time to implement the programs authorized by Congress and demonstrate to the world that the U.S. is serious about advancing the research and development programs needed to foster a home-grown, cost-effective fusion energy industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

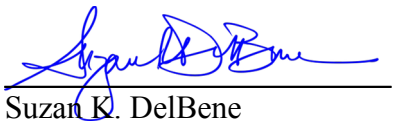
Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



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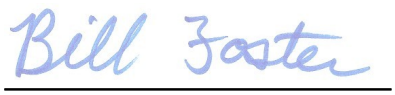

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Member of Congress

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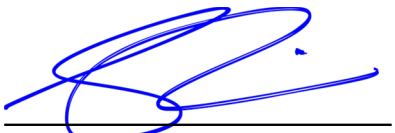
Member of Congress



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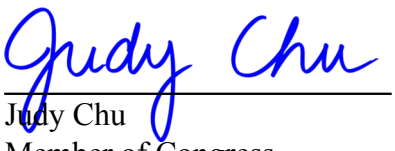

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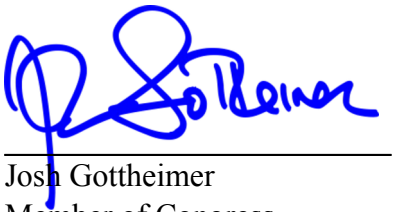

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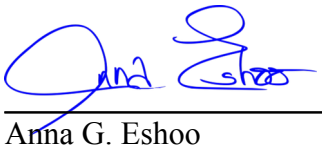

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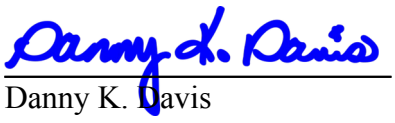

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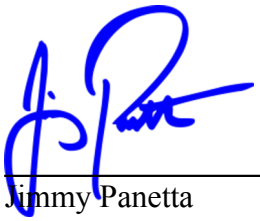

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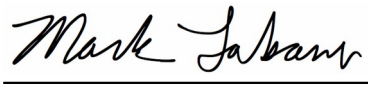

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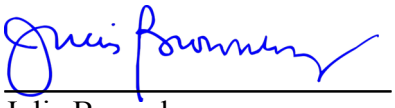

Julia Brownley
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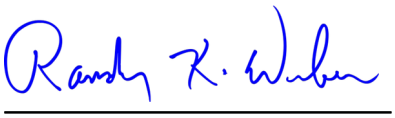

Randy K. Weber, Sr.
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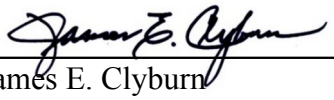

James E. Clyburn
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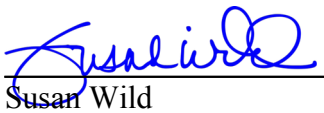

Susan Wild
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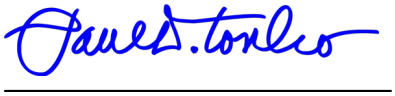

Paul D. Tonko
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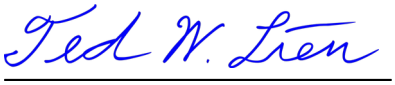

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