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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water  
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water  
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Member Day. I appreciate your continued leadership in supporting programs that strengthen our nation's energy security, economic competitiveness, and technological leadership.

Hydrogen energy and fuel cell technologies play a critical role in advancing our economic, national security, and environmental objectives. It is rapidly expanding into new and essential sectors including transportation, long-duration energy storage, manufacturing of materials like steel and cement, power generation, marine propulsion, aviation, and heating.

Fuel cell and hydrogen technologies are part of a diverse and resilient clean energy portfolio. These technologies enable emissions reductions in hard-to-decarbonize sectors, enhance grid reliability, utilize abundant domestic resources, and support sustained economic growth.

The United States has historically maintained a strong competitive advantage in hydrogen and fuel cell innovation, with American technologies demonstrating superior performance in the global marketplace. This leadership has been made possible in large part through sustained investments by the Department of Energy in research, development, demonstration, and deployment. These efforts have ensured that U.S. industry remains at the forefront of technological advancement.

However, global competition is intensifying. Countries such as China are investing billions of dollars to capture a dominant position in the hydrogen economy. To preserve U.S. leadership and ensure that American companies remain competitive, continued and stable federal investment is essential.

Appropriations through the Department of Energy are critical to maintaining momentum and building on past progress. Strategic investments will allow the United States to scale innovative technologies, expand domestic manufacturing, and fully realize the potential of hydrogen and fuel cell systems.

Recognizing the Department of Energy's past successes and the need for continued advancement, I respectfully request that the Subcommittee consider the following funding levels:

- \$160 million for the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO) within the Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI), to support a balanced portfolio of early-, mid-, and late-stage research and development, as well as technology acceleration and market transformation.
- \$120 million for Fossil-Based Hydrogen, Natural Gas Infrastructure and Hydrogen Technologies, and Geologic Hydrogen programs within the Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO), to support critical research, development, and demonstration activities.

These investments will help ensure that the United States remains a global leader in hydrogen innovation, while strengthening domestic supply chains, supporting job creation, and enhancing energy security.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William R. Keating". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent.

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress