

Subcommittee on Energy
Hearing on
“Clean Energy Infrastructure and the Workforce to Build It”
February 27, 2019

Mr. Gilbert G. Campbell III, Co-Founder, Volt Energy

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA)

1. The transition to a green economy presents the U.S. with incredible workforce opportunity but also, of course, workforce disruption.
 - a. How should Congress be proactively thinking about support for workers, families, and communities that have depended on the fossil fuel industry for jobs and economic development for generations?

RESPONSE: Congressman Kennedy, this is an excellent question that should be a critical component of the proposed legislation. One action that congress can explore is establishing a fund for workers, families, and communities that have been heavily dependent on the fossil fuel industry. The fund can provide dollars to cover training, education, health assistance, and other resources needed to assist with the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.

China and several other countries have established similar funds to address this issue. For example, China has delayed or stopped work on 151 coal power plants, and also created a \$15 billion fund for retraining, reallocating and early retirement of the estimated 5-6 million people who would be laid off due to coal or steel sector overcapacity.

- b. How do we ensure a ‘just transition’ for those communities and workers as well?

RESPONSE: While it is true that renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs have been steadily growing in the US, these jobs are not necessarily located in the same place as disappearing fossil fuel jobs. In order ensure a “just transition” for communities and workers that will be impacted the most, Congress should establish a diverse working group of industry experts to come up with a comprehensive transition planning process to ensure that no communities are left behind. Regional workforce development training for clean energy jobs should be a key component of transition planning. Additionally, we need to think holistically about how the transition away from fossil fuels could be planned in a manner to remediate historic inequality in the energy sector for underserved communities that have suffered awful health consequences from carbon emissions.