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**Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies House Appropriations
Subcommittee on:
“The Department of Energy’s Role in Addressing Climate Change”**

Oral Testimony of Bob Keefe, Executive Director of E2

Madam Chair, ranking member Simpson, members of the Committee, thank you for having me.

I am Bob Keefe, executive director of E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), a national, nonpartisan group of business owners, investors and other professionals who advocate for policies that are good for our economy and good for our environment.

E2’s more than 7,000 members and supporters have founded or funded more than 2,500 companies, created more than 600,000 jobs and control about \$100 billion in private and venture equity capital.

Our members include executives, founders and funders of clean energy companies that are making energy cleaner, more abundant and less expensive in America. In doing so, they are helping our country reduce greenhouse gas emissions that worsen the impacts – including the economic impacts - of climate change. They’re also driving economic growth and creating millions of good-paying jobs that can’t be outsourced or shipped overseas.

We know this because E2 for years now has been tracking clean energy job growth down to the state, city, county, congressional and legislative district levels. Our most recent Clean Jobs America report, which I have submitted for the record, found that more than 3.3 million Americans now work in clean energy. Nearly 2.3 million of those jobs are in energy efficiency, and many of those rely on energy efficiency standards and other programs from DOE. For reference, 3.2 million jobs are more jobs than there are in real estate; in agriculture; in

investment banking. And it's more than double the number of Americans who work in fossil fuels.

What we also know is that many of these jobs and the environmental benefits that come with them wouldn't exist without crucial Department of Energy programs.

Let me give you a few examples.

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate to visit the Ohio headquarters of E2 member Steve Melink, whose company designs and supplies clean energy solutions – solar, energy efficiency, geothermal – to big companies like hotel and restaurant chains and factories. Steve tells me that geothermal HVAC systems are the most energy-efficient heating/cooling systems known to exist. Thanks to a Department of Energy Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant, Melink Corp. is about to introduce new technology could dramatically reduce the cost and substantially increase the adoption of geothermal energy in our country – saving money for big users of energy while reducing their - and our country's - carbon emissions. Steve's company currently employs over 100 people, and is growing fast. He's currently building a new second headquarters building near Cincinnati – which by the way is creating scores of new construction jobs in the area as well.

Here's another example. E2 member Michael Rucker has started two clean energy companies in the past five years that created more than 250 jobs. Michael's current company, Scout Clean Energy, is developing major wind projects in over a dozen states. In Washington state, for example, Scout is building the Horse Heaven project in Congressman Newhouse's district which is expected to generate 500MW of power by 2022. Behind every wind turbine that Michael's company erects is some of the most advanced wind energy technology available – technology that probably wouldn't exist without DOE clean energy programs. Scout is now planning to install energy storage systems – batteries - with its wind projects that will allow it to produce and distribute clean, emissions-free, renewable energy even when the wind isn't blowing. That wouldn't be possible without

technology and companies that exist in part because of Department of Energy programs.

Lastly, I want to mention the companies and jobs of America's future. You'll find them at places like cleantech incubator Greentown Labs in Boston, or in the portfolios of cleantech investment groups like Element 8 in Seattle, both of which are led by E2 members. You'll find them working with and growing from places like the Idaho National Labs and Oak Ridge National Lab.

Not long ago, a group of cleantech incubator CEOs and I met with members of Congress to talk about the consequences of cutting DOE funding. What those CEOs uniformly and unequivocally said was this: Without DOE programs, hundreds of promising start-up companies developing the next-generation of energy technology in America simply would not exist – nor would the domestic jobs, economic potential and environmental and climate change benefits they're producing and will produce in years to come.

In summary, DOE clean energy programs are vital to innovation, vital to investment, vital to competitiveness - and vital to jobs in America. They're also a critical tool we can use and desperately need in the fight against climate change.

E2 and its members strongly encourage you to continue the leadership this panel has shown in aggressively funding DOE's applied science offices and programs – for the good of our economy and our environment.

Thank you again for having me, and for your leadership.

Links to Jobs Reports:

Clean Jobs America 2019:

<https://www.e2.org/reports/clean-jobs-america-2019/>

Energy Efficiency Jobs in America 2019 (with links to all 50 states):

<https://www.e2.org/reports/energy-efficiency-jobs-in-america-2019/>