



Fact Sheet: Senate Republican Funding Bill Shortchanges key investments in clean energy, scientific research, and drought

Investing in scientific research and drought relief should be at the top of the Senate's priority list – but instead Senate Republicans are holding another “show vote” on an appropriations bill, one that cuts funding for energy and water programs by \$668 million. Republican Leader Mitch McConnell has already acknowledged the need for bipartisan budget negotiations to provide relief from the deep, automatic spending cuts to critical priorities like clean energy, basic scientific research, drought relief and water infrastructure. Yet, this Energy and Water funding bill would keep sequestration cuts in place, which will imperil our ability to have a strong economy and strong societies. Democrats are ready to negotiate a budget agreement that provides what we need for developing critical clean energy technologies and providing Americans with a 21st century infrastructure.

Key Deficiencies with the Senate Republican Energy & Water Appropriations Bill

Fails to address the backlog of construction and maintenance needs to keep our waterways and ports globally competitive. The bill provides \$5.5 billion to fund the nation's infrastructure. While that meets the target for the harbor maintenance trust fund, it is insufficient to address the nation's full water infrastructure needs. Additional funding is needed to address the backlog of project construction needs and maintenance activities that are needed to keep America's ports globally competitive and its waterways as robust economic engines. [Senate Appropriations Committee, [5/21/15](#)]

Cuts funding for basic scientific research by \$196 million. The bill provides \$5.143 billion for the Department of Energy's (DOE) office of science, \$196 million less than the President's request. The DOE is the largest single provider of funding for basic research in the physical sciences in the country. Increasing the availability of our world class scientific facilities as well as expanding research at our top universities needs additional support if America is to continue being a global leader in science and engineering. [Senate Appropriations Committee, [5/21/15](#)]

Slashes funding for energy efficiency and clean energy programs by \$790 million. The bill reduces investment in the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by nearly \$790 million, or 29 percent, compared with the President's Budget. This significantly reduced level of funding would slash the number of research, development, and demonstration projects supported in cooperation with industry, universities, and the national labs—curtailing critical innovation and technological advancement in clean and renewable energy, as well as solutions to cut U.S. dependence on oil and reduce energy waste, all while also undermining the Nation's industrial competitiveness in the future global clean energy

economy. For example, the bill cuts the Wind Energy program by 68 percent from the President's Budget and cuts funding for atmospheric modeling, advanced component manufacturing, grid integration, and avian species mitigation among other activities necessary to advance both on- and offshore wind. [OMB, [6/2/15](#)]

Cuts investments in programs needed to protect the electric grid from cyber-attacks and more frequent extreme weather. The bill cuts grid modernization and other investments in the resilience of the electricity and energy system by \$118 million, or 44 percent, compared with the President's Budget. At this level, important activities supporting a secure, reliable, and modernized electricity grid would go unfunded. As highlighted by the Quadrennial Energy Review released in April, public and private investments in a strong and smart electricity and energy system are critical to moving our Nation toward a cleaner and more secure energy future. In the face of increasing threats-from extreme weather to cyberattack-the cuts in the bill run counter to efforts, such as State energy assurance planning and technology development, that will strengthen the U.S. economy, create jobs, and support the middle class. [OMB, [6/2/15](#)]

Includes problematic ideological riders, including preventing federal agencies from protecting infrastructure from flood risk and climate impacts like sea level rise. The bill would block implementation of updated federal flood protection standards that offer an improved margin of safety and call for agencies to evaluate how sea level rise and other climate impacts increase future flood risk. [OMB, [6/2/15](#)]