

Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Support Letter for the Rural Energy for America Program – REAP

April 22, 2022

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Chair
House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair
Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Andy Harris, Acting Ranking Member
House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable John Hoeven, Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chair Bishop, Chair Baldwin, Ranking Member Harris and Ranking Member Hoeven:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) with full mandatory and discretionary funding consistent with the President's FY23 Budget Request as you consider agriculture appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2023. This funding commitment will help sow a growing rural clean energy economy.

REAP has a strong track record of success. Since its inception, REAP has helped over 20,000 farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to adopt clean energy, cut energy costs, and boost rural economic development. REAP is popular and widely supported, with applications greatly exceeding available funds.

REAP opens new opportunities for farmers and rural small businesses in every state and across agricultural sectors because REAP supports a wide range of clean energy choices. REAP technologies help to cut farm input costs and increase income with wind and solar power, advanced biofuels, farm digesters, energy efficiency and more.

Since the 2014 Farm Bill, REAP has leveraged nearly \$10 billion in private investment in rural economies, increasing rural economic development and growing new opportunities for rural small businesses and agricultural producers. REAP provides an effective way for rural America to be part of the climate solution and the modern technologies help to keep young generations in farming and rural communities.

Maintaining mandatory REAP funding and providing full discretionary funding in FY 2023 will

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help bring the benefits of the program to more farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses. President Biden calls for \$50 million per year in mandatory funding and \$30 million in discretionary funding. This funding level will enable REAP to continue to serve interested rural constituents and encourage continued rural investment.

We encourage you to include report language calling for a reserve fund for underutilized renewable energy technologies, that can be created administratively. This provision would help ensure farmers and rural small businesses can use REAP funding to deploy a full range of renewable energy technologies. To diversify clean energy technologies, we urge that this reserve fund be supported in FY 2023 with \$10 million of discretionary funding.

With your funding commitment, REAP will drive renewable energy and energy efficiency investments in every state and across agricultural sectors.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

National and Regional Groups

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Advanced Biofuels Association
Agriculture Energy Coalition
American Biogas Council
American Council on Renewable Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient
Economy
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Center for Rural Affairs
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Environmental Working Group
Geothermal Exchange Organization
League of Conservation Voters
Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries
Association
National Center for Appropriate Technology
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
National Wildlife Federation

Neighboring Food Co-op Association
Solar Energy Industries Association
Solar United Neighbors
Solutions from the Land
Union of Concerned Scientists

State Groups

Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
Alabama Interfaith Power & Light
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives
Chair, Decorah Sustainability Commission
CISA (Community involved in Sustaining
Agriculture)
Clean Energy Economy Minnesota
Cold Climate Housing Research Center
Dubuque County Energy District
Geothermal Alliance of Illinois
Hoosier Environmental Council
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Neighboring Food Co-op Association
New England Farmers Union
New York Farm Bureau
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

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Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
RENEW Wisconsin
Texas Poultry Federation
The People's Justice Council
The Poultry Federation
Tennessee Poultry Association
Utah Clean Energy
Vernon County Energy District
Winneshiek Energy District

Businesses and Cooperatives

A&R Solar
Advanced Renewable Energy, LLC
Advanced Solar Products
Aegis Renewable Energy
Ag-Grid Energy LLC
AgriReNew and Sievers Family Farms
Albrecht Wind Energy LLC
Allterra Solar
Ambient Fuels
Ambor Structures, Inc.
Amicus O&M Cooperative
Amicus Solar Cooperative
Amy's Kitchen
Arctic Solar Ventures Corporation
Ashland Food Cooperative
Bay Baby Produce
Bergey Windpower Co. LLC
Big Tree Farms, Inc.
Cropp Cooperative/Organic Valley
Danone North America
Ducted Wind Turbines, Inc.

DVO, Inc.
eFormative Options, LLC
Envinity, Inc
Eocycle America Corporation
Gaia Herbs
Geoscape Solar
Green Insight, LLC
Integrated Power
Namaste Solar
Pecos Wind Power
Positive Energy, Inc.
QED Wind Power LLC
Seminole Financial Services
Shaw Solar
Siva Powers America Inc
Smithfield Foods
Sol Power Solar
Solar Integrators
SOLAR MEDIX, LLC
Solar States
Solarponics, Inc.
Stonyfield
StraightUp Solar
SunBug Solar
Sunsense Inc.
The Food Co-op, Port Townsend
Viresco AD
Wind Advisors Team
Wind Fisher
Wind Harvest International
X-Caliber Capital
XFlow Energy
Xia' Analytics