

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We are writing in strong support of our constituents' funding proposal, "Large-Scale Demonstration of Domestic Manufacturing of Low-Cost and Low-Environmental Impact Battery-grade Lithium Hydroxide from Unconventional Domestic Sedimentary Resources" for the DOE's Battery Materials Processing and Battery Manufacturing funding opportunity (DOE-FOA-0002678). This proposal harnesses past successful collaborations with DOE, scientific and technical expertise from Argonne National Laboratory as well as top universities led by the University of Nevada, Reno, and augments past research with private sector innovation led by Nevada's American Battery Technology Company (ABTC). We are confident in this proposal's potential benefits for both the local Nevada economy as well as the U.S.'s long-term energy security and technological leadership.

Foreign nations control an unacceptable 90% of the global supply of critical minerals, triggering chronic technology shortages in the U.S. as well as growing reports of environmental and labor abuses abroad. Opening and repurposing U.S. mineral production sites and refineries at scale will take several years, adding more strategic weight to DOE's decision under this FOA. This proposal aligns with each of the goals Congress outlined when creating this funding opportunity in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58): growing production and processing of critical minerals on U.S. soil, while still minimizing waste and driving economic opportunity over several years in a proven region.

ABTC and its partners offer a record of successful collaboration with DOE, previously winning competitive demonstration grants to highlight how northern Nevada's landscape and workforce is uniquely suited for energy-efficient and economically viable extraction and processing of critical materials.

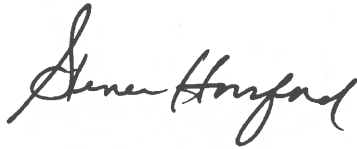
ABTC and partners enjoy broad and bipartisan support: ABTC has highlighted letters of commitment and support from private sector partners such as BASF, Bechtel, and Dupont; public sector partners such as Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Nevada Reno; and the mayors and chambers of commerce for both Fernley and Tonopah, Nevada. The project's partners have taken further care to integrate renewable energy sources, including solar power, to further reduce environmental impacts. Finally, ABTC and its partners have advised us of efforts to comply with the Administration's updated "Good Jobs Principles" as well as environmental justice initiatives in its funding application.

Thank you to you and your colleagues for your dedication to public service as well as preserving the U.S.'s energy security. We urge you to give this funding application full and fair consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Ken Brooke [kenneth.brooke@mail.house.gov] in Rep. Amodei's office, Trevor Dean [trevor_dean@cortezmasto.senate.gov] in Sen. Cortez Masto's office, or Kelly Riddle [kelly_riddle@rosen.senate.gov] in Sen. Rosen's office.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Amodei
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives



Catherine Cortez Masto
United State Senate



Jacky Rosen
United State Senate