

July 14, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

I am writing to you today in support of the application from Lilac to the Department of Energy (DOE) Battery Materials Processing and Battery Manufacturing program created within the bipartisan infrastructure law. This program is exceedingly important to me having led the effort in the Senate to include Section 40207, "Battery Processing and Manufacturing" in the *Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA). Nevada, in particular, is in a unique and vital position to best utilize these investments to help galvanize our domestic battery manufacturing and battery recycling capacity for a cleaner transportation and energy future that will benefit all Americans. That has been a focus of my economic agenda, titled the *Innovation State Initiative*, since coming to the Senate.

Lilac has brought together an extremely well-qualified, diverse, and enthusiastic team for the Project. I know that DOE seeks demonstration projects that will increase US battery-grade precursor materials, battery components, and cell manufacturing. By providing federal funding and unlocking the U.S. Lithium Production Project, Lilac proposes to develop a lithium brine extraction manufacturing facility in Fernley, NV and four lithium extraction projects that produce domestic lithium.

Further, the Project ideally aligns with the objectives of DOE's areas of interest, specifically the demonstration of innovative separation processing of battery materials. Lilac is well-positioned and its Project is uniquely suited for the team that has been created. The application has the support of the Northern Nevada Development Authority, an economic development-focused entity that is helping guide this technological transition.

I am passionate that we have the opportunity in Nevada to bolster our domestic manufacturing, and improve our environment, through these job creating measures in Nevada. For those reasons, I request your full and fair consideration of the Lilac's application for funding from this DOE funding opportunity. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, or my staff (trevor_dean@cortezmasto.senate.gov) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Cortez Masto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Catherine" being the most prominent.

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator