



December 4, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Cantwell:

The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency (“the Alliance”) supports the confirmation of Daniel Simmons as U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). The Alliance is a diverse coalition of representatives from the business, labor, contractor, and academic communities, committed to enhancing manufacturing competitiveness and reducing emissions through industrial energy efficiency, particularly through the use of clean and efficient power generating systems, such as combined heat and power (CHP) and waste heat to power (WHP).

The DOE’s Advanced Manufacturing Office, within EERE, oversees the CHP Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs). The CHP TAPs offer third-party technical assistance to manufacturers and other large energy consumers—saving them money, increasing their economic competitiveness, reducing harmful emissions, and strengthening our nation’s energy security. We are concerned that without a Senate confirmed Assistant Secretary, the Office of EERE is unable to move forward on important initiatives promoting the deployment of CHP and WHP in a timely manner and in-line with congressional intent.

Congress has approved DOE funding through FY2019. Notably, the Senate Appropriations Committee’s report expressly provides funding to support the CHP TAPs and complementary activities at DOE. We seek to ensure that appropriated funds are allocated across the agency as Congress intends, and believe that with Mr. Simmons at the helm, Congress will be better able to ensure this outcome. During his one-year tenure as Acting Secretary, Mr. Simmons has given us reason to believe that he will not undermine the timely and thoughtful execution of funding opportunities, will provide deference to career staff and their expertise, and ensure adequate staff are available to support the program and program direction. We support Mr. Simmons’ confirmation to ensure the continuation of these priorities.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved Mr. Simmons to lead DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. We now urge the full Senate vote to confirm Mr. Simmons as soon as possible.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kefer
Executive Director, Alliance for Industrial Efficiency