

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 11, 2023

Dear Secretary Granholm,

We write to congratulate you on the Department of Energy's (DOE) proactive implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These laws will retain and create family sustaining union jobs that will give all workers in the United States the opportunity to enter the middle-class, while simultaneously preventing the worst impacts of climate change and lowering energy costs for consumers. As implementation continues, it is crucial that the "Good Jobs Principles" developed and published by the Departments of Labor and Commerce are consistently applied across agencies and programs, including DOE. DOE has required funding applicants to describe how they will meaningfully engage with the community and labor as part of a Community Benefits Plan (CBP). As such, we ask that these responses are heavily weighted when making funding determinations, as investments in job quality and benefits to disadvantaged workers and communities need to be prioritized.

As companies begin to put together proposals for DOE to consider, we share a concern that corporations applying for grants will attempt to move manufacturing capacity to "Right to Work" states to decrease labor costs and minimize workers' ability to collectively bargain, while also pursuing funding opportunities from the United States government. These types of actions undermine the economic goals of passing these monumental infrastructure and energy bills, as their purpose is to lift up communities across the country who should benefit from quality jobs. If an applicant is purposefully moving locations and subsequently accountability to workers, this should be factored into funding coming out of DOE programs. Therefore, we request that DOE adopt a discerning approach when considering applications from companies that locate or relocate their manufacturing facilities in states with fewer protections for workers' rights to collectively bargain and earn a fair wage.

Ultimately, the Good Jobs Principles should be applied consistently to maximize benefits to workers and communities. The Good Jobs Principles should be leveraged to invest in America's workforce by supporting and creating good-paying union jobs; developing a local, skilled, diverse, inclusive, and safe high-road workforce; advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and supporting meaningful community and labor engagement. This may include requiring applicants to use Project Labor Agreements, supporting and protecting Workers' Right to Organize and Collectively Bargain, committing to not spending money on opposing union organizing, and requiring or incentivizing the use of union-affiliated or labor-manage training programs. Therefore, we request that DOE work with the Departments of Labor and Commerce to promote consistent application and consideration of the Good Jobs Principles in the application process for entities seeking funding. We also urge DOE to work closely with the Department of Labor to prioritize worker protections when making funding determinations.

Both BIL and IRA represent landmark policy victories that set the stage for major economic transformation if implemented correctly. To achieve the Biden Administration's goal of bringing the benefits of these investments to workers and communities, we ask DOE to fully apply these Good Jobs Principles, adopt a discerning approach with applicants who newly moved facilities to Right to Work

states, and work across federal agencies to make worker protections and good-paying jobs priorities in the implementation of historic investments in domestic manufacturing.

Sincerely,



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Chris R. Deluzio
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
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Debbie Dingell
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CC: Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo