

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

In the coming weeks, it is expected that Congress will consider a robust stimulus package to revitalize the U.S. economy and create jobs. We believe it is important for the stimulus package to jump-start economic growth in a manner that also puts us on a glide path toward long-term economic stability and transformation. Consequently, we are writing to express our support for full funding in the stimulus package of the electric drive transportation provisions, including plug-in battery and hybrid electric vehicles and related electric transportation and infrastructure provisions, which are authorized under the new Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA).

We believe it is a critical time for our country to make a serious push for electric transportation technologies as part of a comprehensive solution to decreasing our dependence on imported oil. These programs and the new technologies deployed as a result of these programs will also stimulate the economy and help build a globally competitive advanced technology vehicle workforce in the U.S.

Achieving these results will require a substantial investment in our future. It will require substantial federal incentives to build and deploy advanced batteries, advanced vehicles, and a smart grid infrastructure.

Below we highlight some key provisions that Congress should fully fund. While these provisions are not inclusive of all existing federal authorities that aim to electrify our transportation sector, they provide a strategic roadmap for creating jobs and transforming our economy. These programs include:

- \$1 billion in grants to support advanced-battery manufacturing in the U.S., along with other components for advanced technology vehicles (EISA section 136(b) and section 132);
- \$295 million for energy storage R&D to support electric drive vehicles and other stationary energy storage systems (EISA section 641 (six parts));
- \$90 million for grants to state, local and municipal governments, businesses and others to carry out projects to encourage the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles and other emerging vehicle technologies (EISA section 131 (b); see also section 706 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005);

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- \$95 million for grants to near-term transportation electrification programs such as truck stop and port electrification projects (EISA 131 (c)); and,
- \$150 million for research, development and demonstration programs for smart grid technology programs (EISA section 1304 and section 1306).

Consumers understand that plug-in vehicles use electricity to displace oil consumption and that they will provide many benefits, including cleaner air, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced energy security, and cost savings from vehicle fueling, operation and maintenance.

Congress' immediate funding of the above programs will provide essential support to consumers, auto and equipment manufacturers, and others to ensure that these benefits are realized as soon as possible.

We thank you for your leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Erin Boyl

Sam Brownback

Ken Salazar

Debbie Stabenow

Robert Menendez

Dianne Feinstein

Thomas R. Carper

Zoe Lofgren

Susan M. Collins

Jim Zinke

Maria Carbone

Carl Linn

John F. Kennedy