



July 5, 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 National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) offers our strong support for the confirmation of Daniel Simmons as U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). NASEO represents the 56 governor-designated State and Territory Energy Directors and their offices from across the nation.

The states are encouraged by Mr. Simmons' forward-looking remarks on a range of issues, such as the imperative to advance building and electric grid integration; energy storage; promotion of energy and water efficiency retrofits at federal, state, and local facilities through energy savings performance contracting; and more recent comments on increasing support for rural and remote community energy access, affordability, and reliability.

While we have strong disagreements on the Administration's position opposing support for the Weatherization Assistance Program, U.S. State Energy Program, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, as well as a number of key energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, we find Mr. Simmons "open door" and solutions-oriented approach to working with the states refreshing and impactful.

State Energy Offices are working collaboratively with the private sector, small businesses, R&D institutions, and local governments to find solutions to the myriad of energy opportunities and challenges facing communities across the nation. Innovation in energy markets requires a holistic approach to energy policy and planning – a great strength of every State Energy Office. Based on our experience with him over the past year, we believe Mr. Simmons recognizes the value of working collaboratively.

Moreover, a strong state-federal relationship is essential to help move new energy technologies from the National Laboratories to the state research institutions and the private sector for market adoption. Mr. Simmons' approach to working across various programs within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, as well other DOE offices, can help us bridge these gaps and leverage efforts.

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We appreciate your consideration of this letter of support for Daniel Simmons as Assistant Secretary of EERE, and are pleased to answer any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Terry", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Terry
Executive Director, NASEO

cc: Robert Jackson (Michigan), Chair, NASEO Board of Directors
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