

Support US-Israel Cooperative Energy Research

From: The Honorable Brad Sherman
Sent By: siamak.kordestani@mail.house.gov
Date: 5/9/2011

Support U.S.-Israel Cooperative Energy Research

Sign a letter requesting funds in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to urge you to join us in signing a letter (below) requesting \$3 million in funding for the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement in the FY2012 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

This program was created in the Energy Independence and Security Act, and is implemented in accordance with a May 2008 agreement between the two countries. So far, Congress has appropriated \$4 million for this effort, and eight cooperative projects are underway in various areas, including energy grid management, biodiesel, photovoltaic and solar micro-turbines, involving businesses in the U.S. and Israel. Separately, cooperation is underway involving several U.S. and Israeli universities.

The Israeli government has committed to match U.S. appropriations on a one-for-one basis. This is an excellent way to leverage a modest investment in alternative energy and efficiency, to the benefit of both countries.

As in the past, this is a programmatic request. Our offices can provide your staff with form language to submit to the subcommittee. Please contact Siamak Kordestani (siamak.kordestani@mail.house.gov) to sign this letter. The deadline for this letter is May 13, 2011.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

BRAD SHERMAN

ELIOT L. ENGEL

STEVE ISRAEL

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

May 13, 2011

Hon. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Hon. Pete Visclosky
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
2362-B Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We are writing to request that the subcommittee provide \$3 million for implementation of the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement in the FY2012 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

This funding will be utilized to further implement Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, P.L. 110-140, and the May 2008 agreement between the U.S. and Israel on alternative energy cooperation. The funding will provide for collaborative US and Israeli research and development efforts in the fields of alternative energy technologies and increased energy efficiency.

As you know, Congress has provided \$4 million for the program since its inception. We greatly appreciate the support your subcommittee has provided for this program in the past. U.S.-Israel projects currently underway include research grants to several promising joint projects in the areas of energy grid management, biodiesel, photovoltaic and solar micro-turbines.

Firms in Israel and companies across the U.S. – from California to Michigan to Pennsylvania – are already working together to develop cutting-edge technologies that will advance America's alternative energy industry. Furthermore, the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement has facilitated greater cooperation and sharing of knowledge between American and Israeli universities on alternative energy.

U.S. researchers will continue to gain from collaborative efforts with Israeli colleagues to the benefit of both countries' efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. We believe that collaboration between U.S. and Israeli expertise will significantly enhance U.S. efforts to develop alternative technologies and increase energy efficiency.

We thank you for your consideration and for your prior support of this program and request your continued support for FY 2012.

Sincerely,