

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Daniel Simmons
Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of
Energy Efficiency and Renewable
Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 2058

Dear Secretary Perry and Acting Assistant Secretary Daniel Simmons,

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Algal Caucus, we urge you to swiftly issue any remaining awards under the “Advancements in Algal Biomass Yield, Phase 2” (ABY, Phase 2) and Productivity Enhanced Algae and Tool-Kits” (PEAK) Funding Opportunity Announcements issued by DOE’s Bioenergy Technologies Office. Additionally, we want to ensure the balance of Fiscal Year 2017 funding, provided by Congress for the Advanced Algal Systems program, is released for future funding opportunity awards and announcements in support of the program’s mission.

Teams of small businesses, universities, and national laboratories across the U.S. have been in limbo for over a year awaiting announcement of ABY2 awards the Department indicated in June 2016 were imminent. A limited number of ABY2 awards were announced at the 2016 DOE Bioenergy Conference with an assurance that the remainder of awards under the program would be issued by year’s end. However, our understanding is that these awards remain under review. A similar delay in the announcement of PEAK awards has caused these groups significant hardship.

Delays have slowed progress in the development of algal technologies identified by Congress as critical to the nation’s interests. These companies have made significant investments in talent and equipment to achieve the program’s goals. We are greatly concerned that these delays will force them to cut jobs or even go out of business.

We ask that you issue any remaining ABY2 awards and all PEAK awards without further delay, and move to release any remaining FY2017 algae program funding in support of additional funding opportunities to achieve the program's goals.

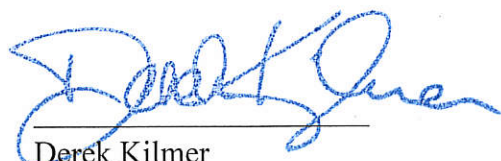
Sincerely,



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress