

November 7, 2016

The Honorable Patty Murray
Senator
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Senator
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Cc: Washington State Delegation

Dear Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell,

On behalf of our organization, the Tri-Cities Research District (TCRD), we write to ask for your support in extending the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for fuel cells. The TCRD is designed to form partnerships and facilitate projects that will bring business and development to the Tri-Cities region. Renewing the fuel cell ITC is critical to our work and to promoting economic growth.

At the TCRD, part of our work involves looking to the future and identifying initiatives that can propel our economies forward. For years, we have recognized fuel cell technologies as a promising avenue to pursue. Fuel cells are an American-perfected and American-manufactured technology that has evolved and grown tremendously. As a result, today's fuel cells are an efficient grid-independent technology that can serve a sole power source.

While fuel cell technologies have come a long way, they face some uncertainty. Last year's renewal of the ITC for other energy technologies, such as solar, excluded fuel cells. That means fuel cells are now competing on an uneven playing field. This unequal treatment of energy technologies will not only harm fuel cell growth but also affect our residents' and businesses' access to this efficient and scalable power source.

The fuel cell ITC is set to expire in December. Please act soon to stop the uncertainty that has already upset the growth of this technology.

Sincerely,



Diahann Howard
TCRD Executive Director