

(March 16, 2017)

Bud DeFlaviis, Director of Government Affairs
bdeflaviis@fchea.org / (202) 261-1335

Today, Morry B. Markowitz – President of the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association issued the following statement.

Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association Calls for Administration and Congress to Preserve Integral Programs for American Success

On the heels of the release of the Trump Administration’s FY 2018 “America First” Budget, the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA) and its members call on the administration and Congress to maintain programs that facilitate the development of cutting edge fuel cell and hydrogen technologies that help America become energy independent, enhance our national security, and provide high quality manufacturing and technology jobs.

Prior to his election, President Trump said he wanted America and its citizens to regain global leadership. Today, we are the world’s fuel cell leaders. By embracing fuel cell and hydrogen technologies, the United States can continue in this capacity, despite rapidly growing efforts overseas.

FCHEA members ask the Trump administration and Congress to maintain current funding levels for fuel cell programs within the Department of Energy (DOE) for several reasons:

1. Fuel cell programs at DOE are small research and development initiatives, as well as advanced demonstration programs with significant benefits that achieve set milestones, produce American patents, create good jobs and encourage major investment from the private sector.
2. Fuel cells are capable of being fueled 100% using America’s domestic resources, including our abundant reserves of natural gas. By using energy resources in the United States to fuel our transportation and electricity sectors, we are keeping our energy dollars at home, rather than sending them to foreign countries.
3. Unlike other new energy technologies that have shipped production overseas, the largest fuel cell companies continue to design and produce their products in the U.S., exporting to foreign customers, while creating jobs and expanding opportunities for American workers.
4. In the United States today, stationary fuel cells power businesses, data centers, schools, hospitals, and utilities with reliable, resilient, on-demand energy fueled by natural gas. Fuel cell-powered forklifts are one of the most rapidly growing segments of the material handling market, replacing battery and other systems and saving money.
5. Fuel cell vehicles are on America’s roads today, replicating today’s driver experience and expectations with a 300–400 mile range, a refuel time of just three to five minutes, and zero-emissions. California consumers can choose from multiple models and drivers in other states will see fuel cell vehicles in showrooms by 2020.
6. Automakers invested billions of dollars to develop fuel cell vehicles, expecting the necessary hydrogen distribution and refueling infrastructure to grow thanks to forward-thinking energy and gas companies, assisted by modest state and federal support. Cutting federal support now can compromise this investment at a time when other nations are expanding their support for fuel cells.



The story of fuel cells is one of innovation, the efficient use of domestic resources, energy security, international trade, and job creation. We ask the Trump administration and Congress to continue to support the small, but important role, played by government to collaborate with industry to generate greater success for the American people.

####

The Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association (FCHEA) represents the leading companies and organizations that are advancing innovative, clean, safe, and reliable energy technologies. FCHEA drives support and provides a consistent industry voice to regulators and policymakers. Our educational efforts promote the environmental and economic benefits of fuel cell and hydrogen energy technologies. Visit us online at www.fchea.org.