



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Governments, Labor, Community and Industry Organizations Urge Congress for One-Time Increase in EM Funding to Create Jobs and Infrastructure Projects

Local Governments today joined with Labor, Community and Industry Organizations in a [letter](#) to urge Congress to provide a much-needed economic boost to some of the regions hardest hit by the current pandemic through a one-time \$7.25 billion increase in funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) program.

The funding, which could be spent in the near future, will help reignite the national economy, assist in reviving small businesses, and create thousands of new jobs. At the same time, it could reduce one of the federal government's largest liabilities, accelerate the national defense mission, and build a nuclear workforce for the future.

The letter was signed by 17 organizations including the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, North America's Building Trades Unions, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) And Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA). "We have worked to improve coordination among federal, state and local government leaders, contractors, unions, communities and economic development entities, resulting in real progress," the letter states. "However, we must remain committed to reducing one of the country's largest environmental and financial liabilities to drive the innovations and technological advancements for America's future."

According to the letter, DOE can successfully manage increased funding and leverage it for future economic development as it has in the past:

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allowed DOE to speed up decontamination and demolition at numerous sites and

award more contracts to private industry and small businesses to hasten the clean-up of legacy nuclear waste. During ARRA, EM proved a worthy investment: the program received \$6 billion and was able to reduce the program's future financial liabilities by \$13 billion through the acceleration of cleanup work. EM contractors alone hired over 20,000 new workers, putting them to back to work to reduce the overall cleanup complex footprint by 688 square miles while strengthening local economies."

The letter identified dozens of high-impact projects that EM could initiate and complete with the \$7.25 billion for the Hanford Site, Idaho Cleanup Project, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup, Nevada, Oak Ridge, Paducah, Portsmouth, West Valley, and Savannah River Site.

The 17 organizations and local governments signing the letter include:

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA)
Energy, Technology and Environmental Business Association (ETEBA)
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO
United Steelworkers Local 12-9477
City of Idaho Falls, Idaho
City of Paducah, Kentucky
Town of Ashford, New York
Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC)
Greater Paducah Economic Development
Hanford Communities
McCracken County, Kentucky
North America's Building Trades Unions
Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce
Paducah Area Community Reuse Organization (PACRO)
Regional Economic Development for Eastern Idaho (REDI)
Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO)
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA)

For more information, please contact ECA Program Manager MacKenzie Kerr at mackenziek@energyca.org or (202) 828-2410.

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Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) is a non-profit membership organization of local governments adjacent to or affected by U.S. Department of Energy activities. The mission of ECA is to bring together local government officials to share information, establish policy positions, and promote community interests to address an increasingly complex set of constituent, environmental, regulatory, and economic development needs. Additional information is available at www.energyca.org.