

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

NEIL L. BRADLEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

1615 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062
(202) 463-5310

July 26, 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

As you consider H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018, which includes the FY18 Legislative Branch, FY18 Energy and Water Development, and FY18 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bills, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce urges you to consider the following recommendations.

Under the Rule, H. Res. 473, the Chamber urges you to support the following amendment to Division D:

- #67 Gallagher - Despite its increasingly critical importance to future electricity grid management and stability, energy storage currently receives just \$20 million of the Department of Energy's multi-billion dollar research budget. Rapid growth in renewable generation is placing new and growing pressure on grid operations and planning activities, which must ensure reliable and resilient electricity delivery when the wind stops blowing and sun stops shining. The increased resources provided by this amendment would further facilitate technological advances and cost reductions, and further the promise that grid storage holds to help address intermittency challenges posed by renewables and enhance grid stability and resiliency.

Additionally, the Chamber urges you to oppose the following amendments to Division D of the bill:


- #37 Beyer - The Chamber strongly opposes an amendment offered by Rep. Beyer that would halt the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to move forward from the flawed Obama-era Waters of the United States rule. The Chamber strongly supports the Trump administration's effort to rescind the Obama WOTUS regulation, which never went into effect because of judicial stays based on the likely unconstitutionality of the rule. Moreover, the Chamber supports EPA's parallel efforts to craft a new, commonsense WOTUS rule.
- #54 Pingree - The Chamber opposes this effort to preempt the underlying prohibition on the use of appropriated funds to implement the National Ocean Policy. This policy was developed without explicit Congressional authorization and would create a significant

barrier to economic development across many sectors of the economy. While the policy is notionally directed at ocean use, it also potentially allows for additional regulation of water runoff from every geographic corner of the country needlessly stifling activities ranging from agriculture to manufacturing to road building.

- #55 Kihuen - The Chamber opposes efforts that inhibit full funding for the Department of Energy's Nuclear Waste Disposal Program to advance the Yucca Mountain project. Congress directed DOE to site, license, and construct a repository at Yucca Mountain for the nation's defense and commercial nuclear waste and spent fuel, requirements it has yet to complete. The Chamber supports the finalization of the licensing process for the Yucca Mountain repository.

The Chamber appreciates your consideration of these recommendations as you debate H.R. 3219, the Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil L. Bradley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil L. Bradley