

OEP Community Feedback on the IMPACT for Energy Act

U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), and Ben Ray Luján (D-NM-3), Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, hosted a discussion at OurEnergyPolicy.org (OEP) on the introduction of the IMPACT for Energy Act. Legislation which would create a non-profit foundation to drive investment in new energy technologies. The following quotes are representative of the reactions from OEP's expert community.

"A foundation of this sort would represent another important tool in the effort to make knowledge created by the national labs have a bigger impact on society. It would provide a new vehicle for the growing number of philanthropists interested in accelerating the ongoing energy transition to support work at the labs. It would make it easier for entrepreneurs and established companies to create partnerships with national lab experts and simplify the process of commercializing the results of such partnerships."

- **David Hart**, Senior Fellow, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

"Creating an RD&D foundation that leverages different kinds of resources to drive cutting edge applied research and commercialization is a solid idea. While programs like DARPA and ARPA focus on more pure research, this idea would drive more market innovation... As the Congressmen say, this approach addresses decreases in early stage capital for cutting edge entrepreneurs. Good idea, and I applaud the effort."

- **Scott Sklar**, President, The Stella Group, LTD

"Working with a private foundation would be much easier than the inherent bureaucracy that is somewhat necessary in our federal institutions. The ability to be nimble, act on short-term opportunities, and create for-profit subsidiaries that will generate long-term revenue streams for the foundation would be a welcome addition to the foundation world. Innovation and commercialization for energy technologies is not the purview of most foundations, so this would fill a gap in the ecosystem."

- **Hank Love**, Executive Director, American Jobs Project

"The Energy Impact Foundation takes an idea that has been proven to work in the medical research space and applies it to the challenge of incentivizing private capital investment in the RD&D of new energy technologies. Beyond robust federal support for energy research, leveraging those dollars to engage the private sector is the only way that we're going to compete in the multi-trillion-dollar global energy market of the 21st century."

- **Brad Townsend**, Associate Director, Energy Innovation, Bipartisan Policy Center