



Dear Senator,

The first installment of the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER), released in 2015, recommended producing a report “to reform existing data collection systems to provide consistent and complete definitions and quantification of energy jobs across all sectors of the economy.” Thus the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) compiled and published the U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) starting in 2016 and continuing in 2017.

The 2016 and 2017 editions of the USEER addressed several gaps in energy employment data as collected at the time by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for business activities essential to the operation of traditional energy companies and utilities, including coal, natural gas and nuclear. The 2016 and 2017 versions of the USEER also was able to more accurately account for jobs associated with the installation and generation of renewable energy technologies – like wind, solar and geothermal power, while also accurately counting those in various professions tied to energy efficiency. These reports were essential to states and communities alike, helping to outline opportunities and shortfalls in community training programs and public education generally, as well as policies which might aid in the appropriate deployment of energy resources. The reports are also a valuable tool for businesses, since they contain data on hiring practices and anticipated growth in years ahead.

Unfortunately, DOE elected to not undertake a similar report after the 2017 edition of the USEER. Instead, the 2018 and 2019 editions have been organized and implemented by the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) – and many partner organizations representing a wide swath of state energy organizations and energy associations, some of whom are outlined above. These reports were expanded in 2019 to include grid energy storage, crosscutting analyses of the nuclear, natural gas, and petroleum industries, greater detail on energy infrastructure jobs, and a first-ever wage survey. The reports were published using the identical survey instrument developed by the DOE and approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Control No. 1910-5179) for the 2017 USEER to provide continuity with the previous

editions of the USEER in data collection and accuracy in year-to-year comparisons. The USEER report is an excellent example of a balanced employment report with an unbiased “all of the above” data collection methodology.

Though the 2018 and 2019 reports are consistent with the professional and detailed editions first published by DOE – with several helpful new additional categories and questions – it is our strong belief that the collection of data and publishing of this report is best undertaken by the Department of Energy. DOE has the resources and expertise across the spectrum of the nation’s energy system. More importantly, DOE can provide an open platform to share energy employment data with the broader public and create a forum for addressing workforce development needs at the national and regional level. We encourage you to support legislation that accomplishes this end.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
Building Performance Association
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Clean Energy Trust
Copper Development Association
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)
E4TheFuture
Energy Storage Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
National Association Energy Service Companies
National Association State Energy Officials
Nuclear Energy Institute