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Outside Witness Testimony on Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations to

the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Chair Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur, on behalf of the Clean Hydrogen Future Coalition (CHFC), I want to thank you for accepting the coalition's outside witness testimony. CHFC is an alliance of organizations working together to advance federal policies that accelerate the growth of clean hydrogen. CHFC's diverse membership includes energy and industrial companies, equipment suppliers, research institutions, project developers, trade associations, labor unions, and NGOs. Our shared goal is to catalyze private sector investment across the hydrogen value chain and position hydrogen as a critical pathway to achieving energy objectives and maintaining U.S. competitiveness. In this testimony, I will discuss our priorities for the FY27 Energy & Water Development (EWD) appropriations bill, which our top priority is the inclusion of language directing the Department of Energy (DOE) to implement the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program and ensure that the full amount of funding appropriated by Congress is not transferred or cancelled. In addition, the coalition is supportive of robust research development and demonstration (RD&D) funding for hydrogen, including maintaining funding for the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's (IIJA) Clean Hydrogen Technology Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration Program, and the Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program.

With its ability to be used as a fuel source for transportation, an industrial or chemical feedstock, or to produce and store electricity, clean hydrogen will have a critical role across all sectors of our economy and in maintaining U.S. energy security by using our domestic resources to produce and use hydrogen. Clean hydrogen will be necessary to decarbonize heavier

modes of transport – including heavy-duty trucking, shipping, and aviation – that are substantially more difficult, if not impossible, to electrify than passenger vehicles. Clean hydrogen can also be used to power high-temperature industrial processes that cannot be electrified and for which other mitigation options are limited or unavailable. In the electric power sector, clean hydrogen can be used to produce CO_2 emissions-free electricity, which can be used to meet the growing power demands of data centers. Hydrogen can also be converted to ammonia, then blended with existing coal fired power plants to support lower emission profile mandates our Asian allies are introducing. Advancing hubs and other hydrogen infrastructure enables energy diversification that will position the U.S. to capture new evolving clean energy markets.

On April 3, President Trump released his administration's FY27 budget request framework which proposes the cancellation of $15.2 billion in unobligated funds from 61 IIJA programs. This proposal would eliminate all remaining hydrogen hub funding by transferring $1.2 billion to "Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Activities" and $3.5 billion to "Baseload Power," while cancelling the over $3 billion remaining. The President's budget also calls for the cancellation of remaining IIJA funds for the Clean Hydrogen Technology Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration Program, and the Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program. Congress preserved the remaining funding for the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program in FY26, and we request that Congress reject the Administration's proposal to transfer or cancel hub funding.

Preserving the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub Program

The Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program was established in the IIJA and will create a national network of hydrogen producers, consumers, and connective infrastructure while supporting the production, storage, delivery, and end-use of low carbon hydrogen (LCH). The hubs will enable diverse, domestic energy pathways to support multiple sectors of the economy and help communities benefit from energy investments, good-paying jobs, and improved energy security, ultimately creating a pathway for the U.S. to be a leader in the global hydrogen and derivative product markets. When the seven hubs were first selected, over $40 billion in private sector investments were projected from the public-private sector partnership envisioned by the hydrogen hub program. In total, the hubs could create 220,000 construction jobs and 112,000 permanent jobs in the hydrogen sector.

We urge Congress to oppose the rescission or cancellation of hub program funding and direct the Department to implement the hydrogen hub program in an efficient manner that meets congressional intent, while also providing appropriate oversight of program investments. CHFC recommends Congress direct DOE to brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment on its implementation of the Hydrogen Hub program and how the Department will operate the program in accordance with congressional intent.

We are also requesting the inclusion of language that expresses Congress's strong support for the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub Program, which will lead to the development of a diverse domestic network of hydrogen producers, consumers, connective infrastructure and the production, storage, delivery and of end-use of hydrogen. The program enables the development of diverse, domestic energy pathways across multiple sectors of the economy and is driving energy investments, job creation, and improved energy security.

The hydrogen hub program not only provides economic development opportunities, but will ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in the global markets, as international demand for hydrogen grows. In 2025, the Hydrogen Council reported that there is over $110 billion committed global investments in hydrogen, a figure that has grown by 50% since 2020.[1] China, the European Union, the Middle East and other countries are building out their hydrogen sectors with government subsidies and policy certainty, for both domestic consumption and to sell in export markets. The hydrogen hub program has shown that companies, including oil and gas majors, see an opportunity for the U.S. to become a leader in the export of hydrogen. Action on the FY26 EWD bill demonstrate the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program still has broad bipartisan support from both chambers because of the critical role that this program will play in advancing the U.S. energy innovation.

Importance of Investments in Clean Hydrogen RD&D:

CHFC is requesting robust funding for hydrogen RD&D and preservation and DOE implementation of the IIJA's Clean Hydrogen Technology Recycling Research, Development, and Demonstration Program and the Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program as these programs are critical to the scaling of a domestic hydrogen industry.

The Recycling program focuses on the recovery of raw materials from hydrogen technology components and systems, and aims to minimize environmental impacts from the recovery and disposal processes, and to address barriers to the commercialization of technologies and processes for the disassembly of hydrogen technologies. The Electrolysis program is centered around RD&D to commercialize electrolyzer technologies with a focus on electrolyzer

[1] Global Hydrogen Compass 2025 | Hydrogen Council, McKinsey & Company

manufacturing, component and supply chain development, and advanced electrolyzer technology and component development.

Closing Remarks:

CHFC appreciates the opportunity to provide outside witness testimony and is grateful for Congress's bipartisan support over the years for these important programs which will ensure that the U.S. remains a leader in energy innovation and the global hydrogen market, while creating vast economic development opportunities across the country.