

# Energy and Water Appropriations Fiscal Year 2020 Highlights

(Note: Numbers are nationwide program funding levels.)

## Arctic Opportunities

- **Arctic Energy:** Report language directs the Department of Energy to support a renewed focus on the Arctic region and to reestablish the Arctic Energy Office. Once reconstituted, the office will serve as a centralized area to support the use of energy resources and innovative activities, including microgrids and integrated energy systems.
- **Methane Hydrates:** The U.S. Geological Survey estimated that Alaska's North Slope currently contains an estimated 54 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas resources within gas hydrate formations. These resources could add to the viability of Alaska's efforts to commercialize its natural gas and provide a secure supply of energy for decades to come. The bill includes \$20 million for methane hydrates, as well as report language encouraging the Department of Energy to perform a long-term methane hydrate production test in the Arctic.

## Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency and Affordability

- **Nuclear Energy:** Provides \$230 million in new funding for an advanced nuclear reactor demonstration program. This funding closely tracks the provisions within S. 903, the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act, which Senator Murkowski introduced earlier this year.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program:** Increases funding to \$305 million to improve the energy efficiency of low-income families' homes.
- **State Energy Program:** Provides increased funding, to \$62.5 million to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and emergency preparedness.
- **Office of Indian Energy (OIE):** Increases funding to \$22 million, for a key program that assists tribes with energy needs and projects on their lands. Also includes report language tasking DOE to prioritize state entities in Alaska for technical assistance and directing OIE to design funding opportunity announcements that do not exclude tribes based on land ownership structures. This program recently awarded grants for projects in Iguigig, Kwethluk, and Togiak.

## Infrastructure Protection

- **Denali Commission:** Includes \$15 million for the Commission tasked with coordination of construction and infrastructure efforts in rural Alaska. The Denali Commission also assists communities facing coastal erosion, such as the village relocation of Newtok to Mertarvik.
- **Utqiagvik Alaska Coastal Erosion Project:** As Utqiagvik's utility corridor is currently in danger of washing away due to the coastal erosion, the bill includes report language on

the importance of this project and directs the Corps to complete the erosion project report expeditiously and to proceed to project engineering and design. Provides \$50.1 million for shore protection projects, including language urging the Corps to prioritize projects in areas where there is risk of environmental contamination.

- **Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response:** Provides \$156 million for the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) at the Department of Energy, which addresses emerging threats to our nation's energy supply by improving energy infrastructure security.

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