

### ***Led effort to save Department of Energy Program - Supports region as an Industry Leader***

WASHINGTON - Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that her efforts to save a federal energy program have led to a major local contract. An industry team that includes local employer Delphi is on the verge of receiving a \$4 million award from the Department of Energy (DoE) to continue advanced fuel cell research that is expected to save fuel, reduce pollution and support local jobs. Last year, Slaughter saved the federal program that funded the research, which was at risk of being eliminated in fiscal year 2012.

"After a hard fought battle to save a federal program I knew would make a difference here in Monroe County and across the country, we've won," said Slaughter. "In the age of ever increasing fuel prices, we must invest in American-made technology, like the solid oxide fuel cell program, which increases vehicle efficiency and secures domestic jobs in this growing industry. I couldn't be more proud of the 50 Delphi employees in Henrietta who are at the forefront of this critical research, leading the charge for cleaner energy technology developed right here in the United States."

Last year, the fiscal year 2012 budget request proposed eliminating funding for the solid-oxide fuel cell (SOFC) research and development programs within the DoE. Slaughter led the fight, along with eight of her colleagues, to continue the program. As a result, \$25 million was included in the final fiscal year 2012 budget, from which DoE has awarded \$4 million to a UTC Power and Delphi industry team. The team's project is developing fuel cells that provide auxiliary power for heavy-duty trucks while idling, which will reduce greenhouse emissions and save fuel costs.

"Our region is on the cutting edge when it comes to fuel cell development and the country is counting on us. Great organizations from our area such as Delphi, RIT, University of Rochester, Praxair, GM and others are all working to develop the environmental and economic benefits of this technology and as a result, we are creating and retaining high-tech jobs right here in the Rochester region."

Slaughter submitted a letter this week to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, again requesting continued funding of SOFC research and development programs

within the DoE in fiscal year 2013. Touting the growth and development of SOFC technology and the importance of continued funding for these initiatives Slaughter said,

"The SOFC program has been successful in making the United States the recognized leader in developing solid-oxide fuel cells. Commercialization of this green technology will deliver a significant return to the United States' economy on the major investments already made by the federal government and industry by producing high quality jobs and expanding our nation's exports."

Full Text of Slaughter's Letter

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen

Chairman

Subcommittee on Energy and Water

Committee on Appropriations

2362B Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Energy and Water

Committee on Appropriations

1016 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We would like to thank you for your past support of the solid-oxide fuel cell (SOFC) program, and urge you to provide continued support for the program with a funding level of \$50 million under Fossil Energy Research and Development within the Department of Energy in the Fiscal Year 2012 Energy and Water appropriations bill.

The SOFC program is an innovative and successful collaboration among the Department of Energy (DOE) and private companies, universities, and national laboratories across the country that are developing low-cost, modular, and fuel-flexible SOFC technology suitable for a variety of power generation applications. The program has generated a high level of competition and an impressive array of technical approaches that has put it on track to meet its goal of developing economically competitive technology. The investment in the SOFC program by DOE and its industrial partners has been successful in developing field demonstrations and will create products in the marketplace in the next five years.

The SOFC program has been successful in making the United States the recognized leader in developing solid-oxide fuel cells. Commercialization of this green technology will deliver a significant return to the United States' economy on the major investments already made by the federal government and industry by producing high quality jobs and expanding our nation's exports. The program increased reliability of SOFC technology to commercially acceptable levels and has provided the technology base to permit continued improvement to low-cost, megawatt class ultra-clean solid-oxide fuel cell modules. These systems will be capable of low cost power generation with 99 percent carbon capture and a minimal water use in preparation for deployment in full scale power generation.

In the absence of adequate funding for the SOFC program, we run the risk of handing the fruits of American investment to our global competitors at a critical time. A decrease in funding runs the risk of fuel cells going the way of solar, wind, and batteries, where clean energy technologies innovated in the United States have seen their economic benefits principally realized elsewhere. Continued funding for the SOFC program is necessary to gain the benefits of this long-term investment.

SOFC technologies are crucial to producing clean energy from coal and natural gas, and to making all energy use more efficient. We urge you to keep this vital clean energy in the United States by ensuring that the SOFC program is fully funded in fiscal year 2013.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

Steve Israel

André Carson

Dale Kildee

Tim Ryan

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