STATEMENT OF
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BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

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Introduction

Good afternoon, my name is Tracey A. LeBeau, Director of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Thank you Mr. Chairman for extending the invitation to testify before the Committee on energy development in Indian Country. I am honored to be here to testify before the Committee on behalf of Secretary Steven Chu.

Background and Executive Summary of Accomplishments to Date

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy is charged by Congress to direct, foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning, education, management, conservation, and delivery programs that assist Tribes with energy development, capacity building, energy infrastructure, energy costs, and electrification of Indian lands and homes. This Office has four statutory goals:

- Promote Indian tribal energy development, efficiency, and use;
- Reduce or stabilize energy costs;
- Enhance and strengthen Indian tribal energy and economic infrastructure relating to natural resource development and electrification; and
- Bring electrical power and service to Indian land and the homes of tribal members.

To accomplish these goals, Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 ("EPAct") conferred my Office the authority to provide grants, including formula grants or grants on a competitive basis to eligible tribal entities. Grants may be used for establishing programs to assist consenting Indian Tribes in meeting energy education, research and development, planning, and management needs, including:

- Energy generation, energy efficiency, and energy conservation programs;
- Studies and other activities supporting tribal acquisitions of energy supplies, services, and facilities, including the creation of tribal utilities to assist in promoting electrification of homes and businesses on Indian land;

- Planning, construction, development, operation, maintenance, and improvement of tribal electrical generation, transmission, and distribution facilities located on Indian land;
- Development, construction, and interconnection of electric power transmission facilities located on Indian land with other electric transmission facilities;
- Developing a program to support and implement research projects that provide Indian Tribes with opportunities to participate in carbon sequestration practices on Indian land; and
- Encouraging cooperative arrangements between Indian Tribes and utilities that provide service to Tribes.

Since joining DOE a little more than a year ago, I have been committed to accomplishing four strategic programmatic and administrative goals:

1. Fully implement Congressional stated goals for energy development in Indian Country, as found in Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;
2. Reach out to Indian Country to understand what the high priority needs are for energy development and how this Office can help address those needs, and based on feedback from Indian Country, develop policies and programs to fill gaps in current Department programs;
3. Work within the Department to leverage the many resources—financial and technical—to promote Indian energy development throughout the Department and to institutionalize Indian energy development; and
4. Coordinate resources across agencies to promote Indian energy development.

In that same time period, the DOE Office of Indian Energy has:

- Conducted a major outreach initiative to Indian Country through eight roundtable discussions with tribal leaders around the country to discuss current needs and priorities related to Indian energy policy and programs;
- Established the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group, an informal group of tribal leaders that provides input and recommendations to the DOE Office of Indian Energy on issues related to energy development and opportunities in Indian Country;
- Developed programs that provide tribal leader energy education, strategic and targeted technical assistance for Tribes on renewable energy project deployment, information on transmission and electrification, innovative project development, and best practices forums for tribal leaders; and
- Supported interagency coordination efforts to promote energy development in Indian Country.

More details about these efforts, as well as future plans are provided below.

My testimony today will touch on some of our efforts to fulfill congressional and Administration goals. My written testimony goes into considerably more detail regarding these activities.

Pursuing Sustainable Energy Development in Indian Country

The Administration is committed to safely, responsibly harnessing America's domestic energy resources to power our economy—from oil and gas to clean coal to nuclear energy to renewable energy and energy efficiency. Our Office's charge is also broad in terms of the scope of energy development we are directed to facilitate in Indian Country – including renewable energy sources such as wind and solar and traditional energy sources such as coal and natural gas, as well as improving the infrastructure needed to deliver this energy. However, Tribes have shown a high motivation to pursue expanded clean energy development. It is our strong belief that the new DOE Office of Indian Energy initiatives that are taking root in Indian Country are a direct reflection of the innovation and the promise of the next generation of tribal energy development. Our priority is in designing and implementing new programs in close collaboration with tribal leaders and tribal experts that will accelerate energy development in Indian Country. By providing reliable and accurate information, quality training, and technical assistance, we seek to further empower tribal leaders to make informed energy decisions that promote community economic development and job creation, foster energy self-sufficiency and self-determination, and advance tribal clean energy visions.

Shortly after being appointed, I asked the National Renewable Energy Lab to update all the renewable resource estimates in Indian Country. Based on 2011 data provided by DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory using updated analysis and modeling tools, the estimated maximum renewable energy resource potential on Indian lands is millions of megawatts (MW) of nameplate capacity. Solar and wind are the primary energy resources that contribute to this potential. These estimates do not, however, take into account cost, transmission access, or other critical constraints on renewable energy deployment, and they assume that all land that is not protected, impervious to (or too small for) system installation, or clearly ill-suited for the technology is used for generation. Most of these resources will not be economical to access and there are competing land-use constraints. Although it would not be realistic to blanket Indian Country with solar panels or wind turbines, these numbers certainly illustrate the vast amount of resources potentially available. These resources are generally regional and geographic in nature: solar in the southwest, wind in the plains, biomass in the northwest and east, and geothermal in the West.

When combined, it's clear that further development of these energy resources in Indian Country provide an incredible opportunity to not only increase tribal energy reliability and self-sufficiency, but also provide an opportunity for Tribes to contribute to the nation's energy security goals.

Energy Economies in Indian Country that are Built to Last

There are many critical factors to building sustainable economies around energy. Key among those factors are policy support, strong collaborative partnerships and understanding of issues affecting the hoped for outcomes, and of course designing appropriate responses to meeting the challenges identified.

Policy Support

President Obama and Secretary Chu have been extremely supportive of improving the economy of Tribal communities through enhanced energy development.

At the 2011 White House Tribal Nations Conference, the President stated:

> *"While our work together is far from over, today we can see what change looks like. It's the Native American-owned small business that's opening its doors, or a worker helping a school renovate. It's new roads and houses. It's wind turbines going up on tribal lands, and crime going down in tribal communities. That's what change looks like."*

At DOE's Tribal Summit, held May 2011, the Secretary reaffirmed his commitment to Indian energy development. The summit provided a historic opportunity for the Department and tribal leaders to discuss a broad range of critical energy and environmental issues in Indian Country. Secretary Chu said, "By working together, we can promote economic development and help many more tribes and villages seize the clean energy opportunity."

In support of this commitment, Secretary Chu announced three key initiatives to support DOE's goals of promoting Indian energy: 1) the creation of the previously mentioned Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG); and 2) intent to issue policy guidance to the Department to implement the Title V provision on giving preference to tribal majority-owned businesses for DOE acquisition of electricity, energy products, and by-products. DOE also supports a number of programs that provide technical assistance to Indian tribes, including the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) initiative to help advance clean energy development in tribal communities, as described later in this testimony.

The Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group was established in August 2011. The working group provides advice and recommendations to the Director of the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs and to the Secretary of Energy on the strategic planning and implementation of the Department's energy resource, energy technology, and energy infrastructure development programs. To provide the most relevant and up-to-date perspectives, the ICEIWG is comprised of five (5) elected tribal leaders from Tribes that are actively developing or have established energy projects, or can demonstrate business interest in energy development. This composition of tribal leaders enables ICEIWG to provide technical and experienced analysis and feedback to the Office of Indian Energy and DOE on complex energy development issues.

We also have been working since May 2011 with several DOE offices, including the Office of Procurement, Federal Energy Management Program, Office of Policy, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to implement Secretary Chu's directive to develop policy guidance to implement the Indian energy procurement preference provision. Section 503 in Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (codified at 25 U.S.C. 3502(d)) grants DOE new authority to give preference to tribal majority-owned business organizations when purchasing electricity, energy products, and energy by-products. This procurement preference is intended to promote energy

development in Indian Country by providing federal agencies the discretion to give tribal majority-owned business organizations preferred access to the federal government marketplace for electricity, energy, and energy by-products.

Promoting tribal renewable energy development further enables economic development in Indian Country, and also helps meet the Administration goals on the acquisition and use of clean energy.

Strong Partnerships and Common Challenges

I began my appointment by meeting with tribal leaders in their communities to hear first-hand about the obstacles, issues, and opportunities for energy development in Indian Country. During the eight roundtable discussions with tribal leaders that I mentioned earlier, we learned about these as well as the needs, priorities, and possible solutions related to: conventional and renewable energy development; transmission and infrastructure; public-private partnerships; energy efficiency and management; education and workforce development; funding and tax incentives; and leveraging, coordinating, and optimizing federal resources and programs. The feedback from tribal leaders and organizations fed into Secretary Chu's Tribal Summit in May 2011 and the program initiatives developed by the Office of Indian Energy to fulfill its statutory mandates and the Administration's energy policy priorities.

We also have taken time to evaluate the thrust of many of our programs to date, including the grants offered through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Tribal Energy Program. Below are important lessons learned we would like to highlight:

1) There has been considerable focus on commercial-scale projects—both by DOE and in Indian Country. Commercial-scale projects are typically developed to sell the electricity generated into the marketplace. This focus is understandable, given the revenue potential of these large scale projects. In our view, however, there is a considerable opportunity in community-scale and facility-scale energy generation, as well as energy efficiency. Community-scale and facility-scale projects are developed to provide electricity to the local community (housing) or on-site (government buildings, community buildings). These types of projects allow tribes to marshal their resources to generate their own energy and electricity; reduce and/or stabilize their energy costs; create jobs in the construction, operation, and maintenance of these systems; promote energy reliability and self-sufficiency; and promote reservation economic development.
2) Key obstacles to commercial-scale energy development in Indian Country include:
    a. Cost to build projects and the financing and funding options available for construction projects;
    b. Access to transmission and the grid, and distribution of the electricity generated from projects; and
    c. Securing buyers who are willing to purchase renewable energy at the cost to produce the energy.
3) The current commercial-scale energy development in Indian Country has been almost exclusively in the purview of third-party developers who lease land from Tribes to

build renewable energy projects in Indian Country. There are three primary reasons for this: 1) the current projects under consideration cost hundreds of millions to build; 2) tax credit incentives (which reduce the net private-sector cost to build projects, and thus reduce the cost to produce electricity) promote third party development and ownership by taxable entities, and 3) extensive expertise—everything from siting, to transmission, to finding a buyer, to negotiating a power purchase agreement—is needed to build commercial-scale projects.

4) Tribes have become more interested in community-scale, facility-scale development for a number of reasons, including the success of the EECBG program, state and utility companies' incentives that pay for on-site generation, and reducing or stabilizing costs.
5) The level of energy education and knowledge is still lacking. This is not necessarily based on capacity; even some Tribes that are very sophisticated in business practices and investments lack a fundamental understanding of how the renewable energy industry works. But, the impact can be most challenging for Tribes that lack financial, human, and technical resources to evaluate and develop energy projects on their lands.
6) We have focused some of our efforts on the unique energy situation for Alaska Native villages. Those challenges include remote locations, no grid connection (for most Alaska Native villages), and a harsh environment (weather and location). However, Alaska possesses a large amount of renewable resources, especially wind, tidal, hydro, and biomass. Unfortunately, because of the environment, much of these resources are "stranded," meaning we cannot get them to market.
7) In many respects, there are several issues shared between Alaska Native villages and smaller tribes in the contiguous states, including: remote locations (cannot access transmission grids), small land bases (insufficient for commercial-scale and even sometimes community-scale development), small populations (they lack the human resource capacity for comprehensive energy development), and scarce financial resources.
8) Lastly, given this information, our primary short term goal has been to develop several programs to respond to the issues, obstacles, and opportunities in Indian Country so that we can see more implementation of successful, cost-effective projects.

<u>Designing Programs to Meet the Challenges</u>

The topic of Indian energy development has been contemplated since the first oil wells were drilled on Indian lands in Oklahoma. Since that time there have been numerous attempts through laws and programs to add greater value to Indian economies through the use of energy resources. Today, the Department of Energy is arraying a number of resources and types of expertise to strengthen American Indian and Alaska Native economies through energy development.

DOE Office of Indian Energy

My Office has recently launched several programs and initiatives to promote energy development in Indian Country.

START Program. The Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) initiative is a DOE Office of Indian Energy project aimed at advancing next-generation energy development in Indian Country. The START initiative is focused on the 48 contiguous states and Alaska. It is led by a technical assistance team comprised of experts from DOE and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). For the 48 contiguous states, early-stage project development technical assistance will be provided through the START program to selected projects. DOE and NREL experts will work directly with community-based teams and tribal legal/finance specialists to further develop market feasibility assessments; due diligence research, analysis, and documentation; and early pre-development work to prepare site control, verify resource, pre-qualify off-take agreements and strategy, and produce a permitting plan.

In Alaska, we have teamed up with the Denali Commission to specifically assist in the development of tribal energy planning for Alaska Native entities. This includes a competitive technical assistance opportunity aimed at:

- Reducing the cost and price of energy for Alaska Native consumers and communities;
- Increasing local energy knowledge capacity, energy efficiency, and conservation through training and public education; and
- Increasing clean energy deployment and financing opportunities for communities and utilities.

We announced the START initiative in December 2011 at the White House Tribal Nations Conference, with an application deadline of January 15, 2012. We received 24 applications for Alaska, and 22 applications for the lower 48 states. We currently are reviewing those applications.

Tribal Leader Training. The Tribal Leader Energy Education Initiative is the DOE Office of Indian Energy's training program and curriculum for tribal leaders on renewable energy project development and financing, including how to build a framework for tribal project development and ways to identify likely projects. We piloted initial curriculum at the National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention in November 2011, and we continue to provide training to Tribes online via webcasts and in person at tribal conferences. In addition to the training curriculum, we also initiated a series of Tribal Leader Forums to bring tribal leaders, federal agencies, and industry together to have in-depth discussions about particular aspects of energy development. We have already held two forums—one on solar energy development in the southwest and one on transmission and clean energy integration. We are planning several more, including a conventional energy forum and a forum on investment and project finance opportunities.

Education and Capacity Building. In addition to the tribal leader training curriculum, we are expanding our curriculum to address the need for expanded understanding by tribal financial officers, attorneys, and executives on project development and project finance. This in-depth training is designed to build capacity for the tribal professionals who support tribal leaders in making the key decisions on energy development projects.

We also have an effort underway to create a document library and to put more of our training and education programs online and make them available on demand.

Transmission and Electrification. Understanding the transmission grid, interconnection issues, and issues related to distribution of electricity also are critical for successful development of energy projects, whether commercial or community scale. We are working with our partners in DOE to ensure tribal participation in the transmission planning efforts DOE funds and participates in. Our transmission technical assistance program is designed to assist Tribes with preparing for participation in transmission planning, which will help them identify opportunities for their own clean energy development. As I mentioned above, we have already hosted a forum on transmission and clean energy development. We had more than 30 Tribes in attendance, with presentations from utilities, transmission planning authorities, WAPA, BPA, DOE, and other industry experts. We plan to continue to provide assistance to Tribes on transmission through a program that will focus on:

- Coordinating tribal input with national transmission planning initiatives;
- Collaborating with Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE) and WAPA on a Pilot Tribal Transmission 101 Workshop;
- Collaborating with the Tribal Energy Program, OE, and WAPA through a webinar series on Transmission Basics Training for Tribal Decision Makers; and
- Working with OE and WAPA to map and create baseline studies of transmission in Indian Country, and we also will update information in a 2000 EIA report on electrification issues in Indian Country.

We also participate on the White House Rapid Response Team for Transmission (RRTT), an effort to improve the overall quality and timeliness of electric transmission infrastructure permitting, review, and consultation by the federal government on both federal and non-federal lands.

Tribal Energy Program

The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Tribal Energy Program was established under the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to implement DOE's responsibilities under that act. Since 2005, the program has been implementing the Office of Indian Energy's EPAct Title V grant authority and has been providing funding related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. In addition to competitive grants, the Tribal Energy Program offers financial and technical assistance for renewable energy feasibility studies and the initial steps toward developing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, including strategic planning, energy options analysis, human capacity building, and organizational development planning.

Since 1994, DOE has funded a total of 210 tribal energy projects and invested over $45 million. These grants primarily have funded resource assessment, feasibility studies, and strategic energy planning. Recently, grants have been awarded for pre-development, deployment planning, and energy efficiency projects. In FY 2011, the program awarded $5.6 million to 30 tribal energy assessments and initiatives to audit more than 200 tribal buildings and initiate strategies for the

reduction of 30% in energy use in another 13 tribal buildings. These funds also will assist Tribes in training tribal members, assessing clean energy options, and building energy organizations.

The program also offers free technical assistance to Tribes (up to 40 hours) which has focused much of its efforts on energy strategic planning, and also funds WAPA to conduct a limited number of pre-feasibility studies on transmission capacity. The Tribal Energy Program has conducted annual workshops on energy development and energy efficiency, as well as regional workshops. Finally, the program has an annual conference for tribal grantees to showcase and discuss their projects that have been funded by DOE.

Indian Country is bustling with energy development activity. Much of this activity is in the early phases and stages of development where Tribes are trying to determine next steps, understand their resources, negotiate with developers, work within their communities to develop support for energy development, and educate themselves. Some Tribes have been very successful at developing strategic energy plans and have some well-formed plans for energy development. Many also have begun actual deployment. Examples of how DOE has helped some Tribes include:

- Strategic energy planning with the Mescalero Apache and Gila River Tribal communities provided by DOE's Sandia National Laboratories.
- Forest County Potawatomi Tribe facility-scale development through the Community Renewable Energy Deployment grant funded by DOE through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).
- Delaware Nation facility-scale development through EECBG and DOE state funds.
- Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Seven Generations waste-to-energy project — in Green Bay with DOE state energy funding (and Bureau of Indian Affairs loan guarantee).

Recovery Act Funding

Through the Recovery Act, Congress appropriated billions of dollars for energy development and energy efficiency efforts. The largest effort was funding $3.4 billion dollars for the EECBG program. By statute, there is 2% set aside for Tribes within the EECBG formula grants. Under this set-aside DOE awarded $54 million in grants to more than 533 Tribes to create long-term energy plans, reduce energy use, and install clean energy projects within their communities. Original estimates from the Tribes indicate that under these 3-year projects, these funds will support more than 2,129 building retrofits, the installation of 1.4 MW of new wind and solar energy generation, and the development of more than 140 energy strategies.

In addition, Tribes received Recovery Act funding through other programs. For example, the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe (mentioned earlier) received $2.5 million through the DOE Community Renewable Energy Deployment effort to help communities implement long-term renewable energy technologies, create jobs, and provide examples for replication by other local governments, campuses, and small utilities. The Forest County Potawatomi Tribe was the first community to complete their project —a rooftop solar photovoltaic installation on the Tribe's

administration building in Milwaukee. It now serves as a showcase not only for Indian Country, but for other communities across the nation.

Two Tribes—Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada and Pueblo of Jemez in New Mexico—received $5 million in grants under DOE's geothermal program. Both Tribes are using these funds to explore geothermal potential on their lands.

Finally, the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority received a $6 million Smart Grid grant from OE to implement smart meters and upgraded grid technology.

Other DOE Office Support

As stated earlier, one of our primary goals is to leverage existing DOE resources to promote and implement energy development in Indian Country. To that end, we have started coordinating discussions with several DOE offices and entities. For example, we currently are working with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to incorporate Tribes into the Solar America Communities and Wind Powering America programs. We hope this coordination enables us to leverage the considerable technical assistance mechanisms developed by these programs for government and community leaders. These programs also have created educational materials by working with and learning from government leaders on implementing renewable energy policies and programs at the community level. It is our goal to leverage those lessons and best practices in Indian Country, so that we do not have to recreate the wheel and can apply proven techniques and technical assistance.

To further support Tribes in clean energy and infrastructure development, WAPA and BPA continue to provide technical assistance and make training opportunities available to the Tribes in their regions. In conjunction with the DOE Office of Indian Energy and the Tribal Energy Program, WAPA is conducting a series of webinars that promote tribal energy sufficiency and foster economic development and employment on tribal lands through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The webinars will:

- Discuss methods for Tribes to evaluate and develop their renewable energy resources;
- Help Tribes build the knowledge and skills essential for sustainable energy projects;
- Outline a process of strategic energy planning for Tribes interested in improving their energy sovereignty and local economy;
- Provide renewable energy and energy efficiency information for tribal decision makers; and
- Offer ways for Tribes and utilities to partner in renewable energy and energy efficiency development.

Through funding support from the Tribal Energy Program, WAPA also provides technical assistance to Tribes that request pre-feasibility studies on transmission capacity for potential commercial-scale development. WAPA also has worked with more than 100 tribal preference customers, receiving a total of 1.2 million MWh in generated electricity annually, ranging from 60 MWh to 182,000 MWh for different Tribes. WAPA has conducted two studies to specifically help Tribes overcome barriers to receiving federal allocation and integrate wind generation.

BPA provides technical assistance to Tribes in the northwest. It has hosted Electric Utility System Operations training for regional Tribes that are developing tribal utility departments, marketing tribal energy resources, or developing tribal strategic energy plans. BPA also partners with Tribes to host a fall and spring tribal weatherization workshop to provide technical training assistance and networking opportunities for tribes who participate in the BPA low-income weatherization and energy efficiency program. Tribes who are served by public utility customers of BPA are eligible to participate.

In June 2011, DOE announced a unique multi-year partnership between the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) to bring science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research and education funding to students at our nation's tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) and mainstream institutions. This partnership will provide a record-high amount of funding from the DOE to Indian students and tribal college faculty. DOE and its national laboratories' science resources will be integrated into the national American Indian STEM educational infrastructure, providing a significant contribution to the science education experience of American Indian students, particularly those pursuing careers in disciplines relevant to the DOE and its national laboratories.

Through this 3-year program, American Indian students will be recruited to join student/faculty teams to participate in community energy projects on tribal lands, with the mentorship of DOE's national laboratories. Courses and workshops will be offered through a new 2-week Energy Institute hosted by TCUs and the national laboratories, and a mentor pool of national laboratory personnel will be on hand to guide American Indian Research and Education Initiative (AIREI) faculty and student participants on education, research, and career topics. Each year for 3 years, AIREI will fund two student teams from TCUs and two student teams from mainstream institutions with active AISES chapters to work with DOE's national laboratories on energy research projects.

The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) national laboratories have utilized their expertise to partner in scientific education initiatives and research projects in collaboration with tribal government partners. Just last week, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Navajo Nation to provide technical assistance on the nation's efforts to develop renewable energy resources, clean coal technology, and carbon sequestration.

Setting Priorities in Fiscal Year 2013 Budget and Future Efforts

The President's budget reflects his commitment to making the tough choices to reduce the deficit while investing in priorities that make America stronger. It's clear from the budget that America's nuclear and energy security are major priorities for the President. Within our budget we made choices and found ways to get the best value for the taxpayer.

President Obama's budget for FY 2013 includes $2.5 million for the Office of Indian Energy and $7 million for the Tribal Energy Program. For the Office of Indian Energy, which is funded at

$2 million in FY 2012, this increased amount will allow us to maintain key initiatives while building on initiatives developed and executed in FY 2011 and FY 2012. For example, we will continue to support the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group. We will continue the START program to provide strategic and in-depth technical assistance to more Tribes in the continental U.S. and in Alaska. The additional funding will also allow us to expand our energy education efforts, including enhanced curriculum and delivery mechanisms, such as online and on demand e-learning education. The funding also will support more local or regional workshops and forums for tribal leaders and provide additional technical assistance on tribal energy development projects.

We also intend to build on the many relationships and coordination efforts we have initiated with other federal agencies that provide support for energy development. Those agencies include the Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Agriculture, Denali Commission in Alaska, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Commerce. We have been working closely with DOI and the Department of Agriculture to better coordinate our grant and technical assistance efforts. We are participating with DOI on an interagency working group tasked with working on rural energy issues in Alaska. DOI also has joined our Alaska START program as one way to work on these issues together with the Denali Commission.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to share the exciting things we are doing in collaboration and in partnership with Indian Country to promote energy development on Indian lands.