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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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May 6, 2016

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

We write to congratulate you on signing an amendment to the existing Agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy and Israel's Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources Concerning Energy Cooperation of February 22, 2000 (the "Agreement").

The amendment expands the scope of already existing energy cooperation, consistent with legislation (PL 113-296) that we co-sponsored in the 113th Congress, that passed the Senate unanimously, and that the President signed into law on December 19, 2014 (the "Act"). Specifically, the Agreement is expanded to include innovations in clean energy, water efficiency, and cybersecurity of energy and water infrastructure. We also note that you took the opportunity to establish more robust postdoctoral exchanges between our two countries' academic and research communities, which is also consistent with the Act's focus on academic exchange.

While these achievements are steps in the right direction, there is still more to be done. We wrote to you on May 12, 2015, asking that you work to establish a cutting-edge, United States-Israel Energy Center focused on academic and industry research to advance energy innovation. Unfortunately, almost 11 months has passed without action demonstrating the Department's intent to establish the center.

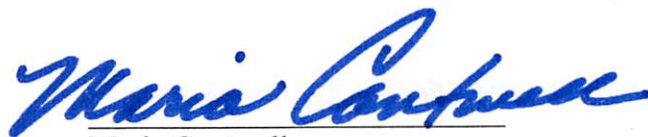
As we noted last year, such a center has the potential to be a leading hub for innovation and research and development for global energy and water issues. The center's focus, as envisioned by Congress, would be expansive, focusing on a diverse set of energy issues. It would include renewables, energy efficiency, water, enhanced natural gas reservoir development, cybersecurity of energy infrastructure, and more. Mutual exchange of students and faculty would enable scientific partnerships to flourish. Collaborative research programs, technology transfer, and industry partnerships would connect two of the world's most innovative countries -- building bridges and helping to move important new technologies to market. The center would support technological and scientific innovation, increased energy security, and mutual benefit for both countries.

We are pleased that you accomplished so much on your recent trip, but respectfully request that you commence work on the center for the benefit of the United States and Israel.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator