



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2019

BROAD COALITION BACKS 'MOONSHOT' ENERGY STORAGE BILLS

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and **Rep. Bill Foster (D-III.)** are leading bipartisan companion plans for focusing federal efforts toward commercializing breakthrough clean energy storage technologies.

Their [Better Energy Storage Technology Act](#), or BEST Act, would reauthorize and refocus the Department of Energy's grid-scale storage research, development and demonstration efforts.

Advances in energy storage have the potential to transform U.S. electricity markets, but current grid-scale technologies are not nearly cheap or large enough to be widely deployed.

Specifically, the BEST Act reauthorizes the energy storage RD&D program at \$300 million over five years. It focuses efforts on highly-flexible power systems with a minimum duration of 6 hours, lifetime of at least 8,000 cycles of discharge at full output and 20 years of operation; long-duration storage systems with power output of 10 to roughly 100 hours; and seasonal systems that can store energy over several months. The BEST Act also includes goals to demonstrate up to five next-generation grid-scale storage solutions within five years. This type of targeted "moonshot" goal would help create lower-cost and more durable grid-scale storage.

The BEST Act also requires public-private coordination of research efforts to produce commercially-viable storage systems.

Original co-sponsors on the bills are **Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Martha McSally (R-Ariz.)** and **Angus King (I-Maine)** and **Reps. Sean Casten (D-III.), Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.)** and **Anthony Gonzalez (R-Ohio)**.

ClearPath Action Executive Director Rich Powell:

“The BEST Act goes straight to the heart of what’s needed to leverage every clean energy source - from renewables to nuclear - in our 21st century electricity system. This bipartisan group of lawmakers is taking charge on a key piece in a larger puzzle toward accelerating technological innovation that promises to bolster energy security, reliability, resilience and system flexibility in an ever-cleaner and affordable U.S. and global power grid.”

Audubon Vice President for Climate Renee Stone:

“Audubon supports bipartisan solutions that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the speed and scale necessary to protect birds and the places they need from the effects of a warming world. This bill’s investment in energy storage research will propel innovation needed to realize a key goal: an electric grid powered by clean energy. On behalf of the birds and our members, Audubon thanks all of the House and Senate sponsors for their leadership.”

BPC Action Executive Director Michele Stockwell:

“We applaud Sens. Collins (R-ME) and Heinrich (D-NM) and Reps. Foster (D-IL) and Herrera Beutler (R-WA) for their bipartisan work on Better Energy Storage Technology Act (BEST Act). Our current electricity grid is expensive to maintain, requiring utilities to invest nearly \$100 billion a year to uphold. Grid-scale storage would create significant efficiency gains by reducing the need for new generation capacity, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. Federal investment and support in energy research, such as this, sparks job creation and enhanced competitiveness of critical industries like manufacturing, while making American energy systems more affordable, reliable and clean.”

U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Global Energy Institute Acting President Christopher Guith:

“Grid-scale battery storage is one of the most important and promising technologies to help address climate change, but technology advances are needed to lower costs and accelerate its adoption in the U.S. and around the world. That’s why we’re proud to support the bipartisan BEST Act, which will increase funding for breakthrough storage solutions to power the grid and complement the continued growth of renewable and other clean generation. We encourage all members of Congress to cosponsor and support passage of this important legislation.”

Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions Executive Director Heather Reams:

“We are pleased with the Republican leadership of Senators Collins, Gardner, and McSally and Representatives Herrera Beutler and Gonzalez for introducing legislation to advance energy solutions. Strengthening our nation’s energy storage RD&D programs ensures that America’s innovative spirit is working toward the rapid commercialization of clean energy technologies, including grid-scale storage research and other breakthrough technologies. CRES supports these efforts as ways to give our nation more choices for cleaner, reliable, and more affordable sources of power.”

Energy Storage Association CEO Kelly Speakes-Backman:

“We commend Senator Collins, Congressman Foster, and their bipartisan co-sponsors in the Senate and House for introducing the Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act. Energy storage provides the flexibility necessary for a more resilient, efficient, sustainable and affordable grid. Public investments in technology demonstration are critical to readying the next generation of storage technologies to handle stresses on the electric system, particularly over longer durations. If enacted, the BEST Act will authorize the Department of Energy to undertake new public-private partnerships for proving promising electrochemical, thermal, and physical storage technologies in actual electric grid operations. Doing so will ensure a fuller range of storage options is available to meet the needs of a 21st century electric system. ESA is pleased to endorse the BEST Act and notes that Sen. Collins, Rep. Foster, and their colleagues join a diverse set of leading legislators in the House and Senate who all agree that advancing energy storage is a priority.”

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation Senior Fellow David Hart:

“The BEST Act recognizes the vital importance of accelerating innovation and deployment of energy storage technology, which is essential to eliminate carbon pollution from our energy system and sustain the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy. The federal government, in partnership with the private sector, must drive energy storage forward, and the BEST Act would take key steps to make that happen.”

**Union of Concerned Scientists Director of Government Affairs - Climate and Energy
Robert Cowin:**

“UCS believes that the federal government has an essential role to play in modernizing our outdated electricity system. The accelerated development and commercialization of new energy storage technologies will lead to a cleaner, more affordable, more resilient and reliable power grid. The BEST Act will strengthen our federal commitment to innovation in energy storage technologies, helping the U.S. optimize its abundant, clean energy resources. We welcome and support this effort as part of a suite of robust policies urgently needed to help make deep cuts in carbon emissions to address climate change.”

American Council for Capital Formation Senior Energy Fellow Drew Bond:

“Large scale energy storage is the Holy Grail in our pursuit to use more renewable sources of energy to generate electricity that is affordable, abundant, reliable, and clean. The BEST Act will move us closer to transforming our electricity sector and our climate goals. We know how to generate cost-effective electricity from renewable sources of energy, but we have not yet mastered the ability to store that power over long or even moderate amounts of time. Breakthrough storage technologies, primarily in the form of more efficient batteries, is the missing link between harnessing the power of the sun and wind, and the round-the-clock reliability our modern world depends upon.”