CATALYTIC Innovations

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July 6th, 2016

Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space & Technology
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson,

I am writing to both of you on behalf of my organization, Catalytic Innovations, and personally as a small business owner and employer in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to express support for the Solar Fuels Innovation Act (amendment to section 973 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, 42 U.S.C. 16313). Thank you for all of your work and continued support toward promoting this important field of research. My organization was founded on, and has commercialized, research and patents out of Yale University in the field of solar fuels. As such, my organization and our customers view this field as an important one for the development of intellectual property that promotes entrepreneurship, and helps to create jobs and value.

While solar fuels-related concepts like artificial photosynthesis and "solar gasoline" are immediately relevant to basic research in energy sciences, devices and processes that come from this early-stage research will be key toward maintaining our energy independence in the future. Furthermore, and more important to our economy and sustainability in the short-term, discoveries made while on the path toward these research goals have applications in numerous industries around the country. In one example, catalyst materials developed initially for the fuel-forming reactions intrinsic to the artificial leaf are used to reduce the energy cost and environmental impact of harsh refining processes in the US metal production and manufacturing industries. In another, discoveries made toward the generation of fuel from carbon dioxide allow us to design more efficient liquefaction and scrubbing processes.

Numerous other examples exist that show the widespread applications of technology discovered in this field. In each one, economic incentives drive the decisions of the end user, and the technology delivers. Discoveries in this field create real value today, which is leveraged by both small and large companies around the country toward improving the US economy.

Sincerely,

Stafford W. Sheehan
President and CEO
Catalytic Innovations