

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to express our support for sustaining and strengthening the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program (ATVM). The ATVM was created by Congress in 2007 in the bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) to help ensure that as the nation embarked on a rapid shift to cleaner and more fuel efficient vehicles, those advanced vehicles and related technology would be built here in the United States. That challenge is even more urgent today.

Strong domestic manufacturing must be an essential part of our climate solutions. And programs and policies that help rebuild and retool our factories to make the technologies of the future will be essential to ensuring a climate and economic recovery agenda that goes hand in hand with rebuilding good jobs and hard-hit communities. The ATVM is a critical tool in this toolbox, and we oppose any proposed efforts to weaken the ATVM, either by legislative or administrative action. Instead, we believe the ATVM needs to be sustained and strengthened.

We know that the ATVM works. ATVM loans have been used to build or retool factories in eight states, including Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, New York, Tennessee, and California. These factories anchor local and nationwide supply chains, employ tens of thousands of workers and have produced millions of advanced technology vehicles here in the United States.¹

As the vehicles sector faces rapid technological change, intense global competition, and the urgent need to rebuild manufacturing as part of a real and sustained economic recovery, the ATVM supports critical investments in both assembly and the supply chain. It is a key piece of the comprehensive program America needs to ensure that U.S. workers build the cars and technology of today and tomorrow. To provide even greater impact, the ATVM should be funded and updated to meet present-day needs; it should be expanded to include medium-and heavy-duty clean vehicles and their components, as well as the manufacture of related electric charging and hydrogen fueling equipment. It should be shaped to prioritize economically critical technologies, fill domestic supply chain gaps, and sustain and create good local jobs.

¹ BlueGreen Alliance, *Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans: Employment Impact*, 2016. Available Online: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/ATVM-employment-impacts-and-potential-FINAL.pdf>

The ATVM is a proven tool for saving and creating U.S. jobs, rebuilding our competitiveness and enabling major strides in cutting carbon pollution and combating climate change. The ATVM is key, together with manufacturing conversion grants and other complementary measures, to spur urgently needed domestic reinvestment across the automotive supply chain. Worldwide, America's competitors are moving aggressively to capture the gains from a new generation of transportation technology. This is no time for us to step back.

For these reasons, as the 117th Congress moves forward with its efforts to address the climate crisis, spur our economy, and get America back to work, we urge you to sustain and strengthen the ATVM Loan Program. We look forward to your continued leadership in supporting this program.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy
BlueGreen Alliance
California Business Alliance for a Clean Economy
CALSTART
Ceres
Citizens Utility Board – Illinois
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Law & Policy Project
Earthjustice
Electric Drive Transportation Association
Electrification Coalition
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
EV Drive Coalition
Forth
Green for All
GreenLatinos
Intelligent Transportation Society of America
League of Conservation Voters
Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Plug In America
Sierra Club
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Third Way
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Auto Workers
Voices for Progress
ZETA