

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Former EERE officials unified in opposing Trump cuts

By Darius Dixon

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Seven former leaders of the Energy Department's renewable energy office — across Republican and Democratic administrations — are asking lawmakers to reject President Donald Trump's proposal to make deep cuts to the program.

"While we have not always agreed on the relative emphasis of various elements of the EERE budget we are unified that cuts of this magnitude in the proposed FY18 budget will do serious harm to this office's critical work and America's energy future," the ex-officials wrote today in a [letter](#) to House and Senate energy appropriators.

Trump's fiscal 2018 DOE [budget](#) calls for slashing EERE's budget by 69 percent — from \$2.07 billion to \$636 million.

The letter is signed by two assistant secretaries for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy who served in the George W. Bush administration, and four who worked in the Clinton and Obama administrations. They were also joined by Mike Davis, who led EERE's predecessor office under President George H.W. Bush. A [similar letter](#) was also sent to Energy Secretary Rick Perry and various officials in the administration.

"This is a particularly inauspicious time to cut the EERE budget," the former officials wrote, warning of China's spending on renewable energy technology. "World-wide investment in clean energy now measures in the hundreds of billions of dollars annually."

They added: "We ignore China's resolve — and success to date — at our peril."

WHAT'S NEXT: The 2018 fiscal year begins Oct. 1 but Congress is behind in its normal appropriations schedule and subcommittee spending chiefs do not yet have the funding levels they need to craft their bills in earnest.

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