## United States Senate

## WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm Secretary U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

We write to urge your full and fair consideration of the Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub, LLC's (WIH2) application to the Office of Clean Energy Demonstration's FOA-2779. If awarded, WIH2 would fund hydrogen production, distribution, storage, and use in the Mountain West and adjacent regions.

The application submitted by WIH2 was put together by a consortium of four states — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming — in partnership with a broad coalition of community and industry stakeholders. If selected, this proposal would propel economic development in the region, advance a broad range of hydrogen production technologies and end-use applications, and help our nation to build a coast-to-coast integrated hydrogen network.

The four states span a region with natural attributes well suited to hydrogen production and use. These include abundant wind, solar, and natural gas resources necessary to producing clean hydrogen at scale. The region also includes capacity for carbon storage and has developed the expertise to match. There is significant demand for clean hydrogen in the region as a feedstock, source of industrial heat, long-duration energy-storage medium, and more. The region's plans also include the use of existing and new pipelines, as well as surface transport, within and beyond the four states, which would help build a natural bridge between eastern and western markets.

The WIH2 team estimates that the eight projects proposed in the region will create over 7,000 direct jobs during construction and operations and over 26,000 indirect jobs, supporting robust economic development. Communities interested in hosting projects include two coal-plant host communities and tribal partners directly participating in hydrogen production and use.

We all agree that building a Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub can help us move forward on the shared goals of energy security, decreased pollution, and job creation. We encourage your full and fair consideration of the application submitted by WIH2 LLC.

John Hickenlooper United States Senator

Ben Ray Lujan United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet United States Senator

Martin Heinrich United States Senator John Barrasso, M.D. United States Senator

Cyothia M. Lummis United States Senator

Michael Š. Lee United States Senator

Mitt Romney

United States Senator