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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

November 22, 2013

Dr. Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Monitz,

I am writing in support of North Carolina State University's (NCSU) application for funding as a Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative Institute (CEMII).

I strongly support your efforts to invest in and support the next generation of high technology manufacturing jobs as part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation in the United States and applaud you for selecting wide-bandgap (WBG) semiconductors as an area in which to invest. I believe that the DOE program for WBG power electronics will help to support and promote both near-term product commercialization and mid-term targeted research leading to new solutions that support the foundries, device designers, packaging providers and system integrators. Ultimately, I expect this will have a transformative effect on the nascent WBG industry and provide sustained energy, climate, economic, and environmental benefits for the United States for decades to come.

NCSU is leading an application for CEMII in partnership with the University of California at Santa Barbara and Virginia Tech University. In addition to these and other university partners, the NCSU CEMII would have key industry partners in North Carolina, including CREE and RF Micro Devices, as well as leading WBG foundries and manufacturing companies throughout the United States. With such partnerships, the NCSU CEMII would be able to leverage valuable federal investments in NCSU's FREEDM Systems Center, at other Manufacturing Extension Partnership centers in North Carolina, Virginia, and California, and the Center for Power Electronics Systems at Virginia Tech, and leverage the resources of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Naval Research Laboratory, and National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

I was pleased to learn that the applicant team led by NCSU was recently invited to present its proposal to the Department in a reverse site visit for the WBG semiconductor initiative. I have visited NCSU many times myself and have seen first-hand some of the facilities and programs to which CEMII will have access if NCSU is selected as a host site. I am confident that CEMII would be a strong engine for innovation, job creation, education, and training, creating a robust manufacturing base for WBG power electronic devices throughout the country, enhancing the talent of the team that was formed to develop the CEMII proposal. I hope you will give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Price".

Rep. David Price