

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD SAYS NREL FUNDING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FUNDING TO BE INCREASED IN BUDGET SAYS BUDGET FIGURES ARE “GREAT NEWS” FOR NREL

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today announced that the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee has approved a \$161 million increase in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Renewable Energy budget for next year (FY 2002). The total funding approved for renewable energy programs will be approximately \$435 million. This represents almost a 15% increase over FY 2001 levels.

“This is great news for renewable energy programs around the nation and specifically the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Colorado,” Allard said. “They will be receiving an increase in their research and operational budgets for next year. This will allow them to continue their very important work in developing alternative energy sources.”

Last year, renewable energy programs within the Department of Energy were funded at approximately \$373 million. In May, Allard formally contacted the subcommittee to request an increase in DOE’s renewable energy budget. He has also worked directly with Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Harry Reid (D-NV) and other supporters of renewable energy such as Sen. James Jeffords (I-VT) in securing an increase.

“Any long-term energy plan must include a renewable component as we work toward a balanced domestic energy portfolio,” added Allard. “These funding levels demonstrate a bipartisan commitment by the U.S. Senate to develop new technologies and clean energy options for future generations.”

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