Wisconsin Stakeholders Praise Senator Baldwin's Work in the Bipartisan Energy Policy Modernization Act

Wisconsin energy leaders have praised Senator Baldwin's efforts to invest in and create new opportunities for growth in a clean energy economy:

Water research and technology leaders:

"Over the decades, as we have sought new solutions for our country's energy demands, there seems to have been a disconnect and limited action on addressing the importance of water when it comes to addressing energy production and costs. Senator Baldwin's provisions in the comprehensive energy bill will be critical steps in getting our federal government to coordinate efforts around this water-energy nexus and to assist the thousands of water and wastewater utilities across the country to address one of their major costs – energy," said Dean Amhaus, President and CEO of The Water Council.

"Senator Baldwin's energy-water amendment will help publicly-owned wastewater treatment utilities like NEW Water explore and implement opportunities to become more energy-efficient and eventually energy independent. Wastewater treatment is a highly energy-intensive process. At NEW Water, we continually look to reduce our energy demand, which comprises about 18% of our overall operation and maintenance costs. We welcome opportunities for utilities to leverage Wisconsin's expertise in water and energy to reduce their energy demand and costs for ratepayers," said Tom Sigmund, Executive Director, NEW Water, Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District.

"Expanding the scope of the DOE Industrial Assessment Centers to include water and wastewater treatment facilities would have tremendous benefits on water efficiency improvement and cost reduction in Wisconsin. This will provide great opportunities for our world-class faculty in the College of Engineering and the School of Freshwater Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to put their expertise into practice, to help conserve and protect our valuable water resources in a sustainable way. It will also provide our students with great hands-on training and experiences to become tomorrow's engineers and scientists in the water treatment industry," said Chris Yingchun Yuan, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the DOE Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

"The Midwest Energy Research Consortium (M-WERC) is pleased to hear that the NEWS Act is included in the comprehensive energy bill being considered. Coordinate and optimization of federal agency actions on energy and water issues is critical if we are going to address these issues comprehensively and with the best efforts of both the public and private sectors. M-WERC has been working with our member companies, as well as those of The Water Council on a strategic industry roadmap on Energy-Water Nexus issues – to uncover the challenges and opportunities from an industry perspective. When completed this May, our member company and industry as a whole will have greater insights as to where industry can work with the federal government and others to solve some of the grand challenges in the overlap of energy issues and water issues," said Alan Perlstein, Executive Director and CEO, Mid-West Energy Research Consortium.

Wisconsin manufacturing:

"Senator Baldwin's amendment to the energy bill ensures that Wisconsin paper producers will be able to continue their successful partnership with the Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office to research and develop energy efficient manufacturing processes and advanced paper materials," said Jeff Landin, Wisconsin Paper Council President.

ExaSCALE Supercomputing:

"Cray applauds passage of the Energy Modernization Act, which authorizes the Exascale Computing Program through FY 2018. This legislation will be instrumental in helping our nation achieve exascale computing capabilities early in the next decade. Maintaining leadership in applied high performance computing is critically important to national defense, scientific advancement, and industrial competitiveness. Senator Tammy Baldwin played a key role in getting the Exascale Computing provision included in the final bill. As a leader in supercomputing and as a company that builds all its systems in Chippewa Falls, WI, we appreciate her efforts," said Steve Scott, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Cray.

Maritime workforce educators and leaders:

"Wisconsin's maritime workforce is key to moving goods to customers around the world, and promoting economic development and jobs. The maritime and energy Centers of Excellence program will enable NWTC and other colleges to continue to build our state's export economy and maintain the best maritime workforce in the world. We are grateful to Senator Tammy Baldwin for her national leadership on this issue," said Dr. H. Jeffrey Rafn, President of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

"We commend Senator Baldwin for understanding the importance of investing in the Great Lakes maritime industry, which is a strong economic driver in Wisconsin. North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance supports efforts to train workers for good paying maritime manufacturing careers. Without increasing the investment in maritime skills training, the industry will not be able to meet the demands for recreational marine industry, and for building and maintaining the United States Naval fleet," said Ann Franz, Director of North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance, an industry partnership of the seven ship, yacht, and boat builders in northeast Wisconsin.