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Subject: DOE: Coal groups urge Trump to fund fossil-energy research (from E&E news wire)
[March 10 2017 Letter to Trump on fossil fuel research.pdf](#)

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Thanks,

Bob

DOE

Coal groups urge Trump to fund fossil-energy research

Christa Marshall, E&E News reporter

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Coal advocates are pressing President Trump to "level the playing field" for fossil energy research amid rumors of Department of Energy budget cuts.

As a candidate, Trump expressed support for "clean coal technology," but it's unclear how much he backs spending on technologies to remove carbon dioxide from fossil fuel power generators.

"In light of recent calls for dramatic cuts to the federal budget, we want to stress that every dollar allocated to fossil energy research is an investment in the long-term future of America's coal and fossil fuel industry," states the letter, which was signed by leaders from the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council; Arch Coal Inc.; the Carbon Utilization Research Council; ClearPath Action; Cloud Peak Energy Inc.; Peabody Energy Corp.; the SMART Transportation Division; the United Mine Workers of America; and the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

The letter recommends more public-private partnerships, such as those between DOE and industry that fostered development of hydraulic fracturing decades ago. Similar collaboration with industry led to the launch this year of the first retrofitted coal plant at scale with carbon capture technology at NRG Energy Inc.'s Petra Nova project in Texas, the groups said.

With more research and development investment, carbon capture technology could be cost-competitive, much like wind and solar in recent years, they said.

Currently, DOE's Office of Fossil Energy, which supports carbon capture and other technologies aiming to make fossil fuel generation more efficient, is funded at around \$630 million. DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is funded at more than double that — \$2.1 billion — although its broader portfolio includes the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, mandatory efficiency standards, sustainable transportation, and weatherization and building programs.

Many DOE programs are expected to get pinched as the administration searches for offsets to plans to add \$54 billion in discretionary Department of Defense spending for fiscal 2018.

Separately, many advocates are pushing for expanded federal tax credits for carbon storage, and increased funding for CO2 pipelines in any infrastructure package, as mechanisms to boost carbon capture and storage deployment (*E&E Daily*, Dec. 6, 2016).

In a *Washington Times* [op-ed](#) yesterday, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R) and ClearPath Foundation CEO Jay Faison also called for more research on CCS.