



National Association of State Energy Officials

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Manchin
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Minority Member Barrasso
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Shalanda Baker, Deputy Director for Energy Justice, as Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

On behalf of the members of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the governor-designated State Energy Offices from the 56 states, territories, and District of Columbia, we support the confirmation of Shalanda Baker as Director of DOE's Office of Minority Economic Impact.

Deputy Director Baker will bring unique expertise and exceptional leadership at the helm of the talented and dedicated team at DOE's Office of Minority Economic Impact. Throughout her career as a scholar, lawyer, and Air Force officer, she has worked tirelessly to give voice to marginalized people. She has made invaluable contributions to policymakers' understanding of how to center equity, justice, and underrepresented communities in clean energy policy design and implementation. Even prior to her appointment at DOE, many of NASEO's State Energy Office members had already benefited from Deputy Director Baker's expertise, drawing on her prolific work at the Initiative for Energy Justice and Northeastern University to inform their energy and climate policy, program, and stakeholder engagement efforts. We are confident that, once confirmed, Deputy Director Baker will continue to inspire even more action on energy equity and inclusion across all levels of government.

NASEO applauds the selection of Deputy Director Baker to lead the Department's initiatives strengthening diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunities, small and disadvantaged businesses, minority educational institutions, and historically underrepresented communities, and encourages the Committee to move quickly on her confirmation.

Sincerely,

David Terry, Executive Director, NASEO
CC: U.S. State Energy Directors

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