April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Advanced Separation Technologies Research in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, located at the Center for Advanced Separation Technologies, Holden Hall, Rm 311-E, 410 Old Turner St., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Funding would be used for research and development of a second-generation technology to separate rare earth elements and water from coal that has been discarded for years in coal slurry impoundments. This process can be used to simultaneously recover valuable natural resources and clean up the environment, remediating coal waste that has plagued communities for decades.

It is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars since coal waste contains valuable minerals and materials that are significant to national security, energy technology development, and domestic energy supply chains. Funding for this project would help bring novel advanced separation technologies closer to commercial application and would help with the recovery of high-value natural resources.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress