Massachusetts Hydrogen Coalition

April 13, 2011

Department of Energy,
Office of the Under Secretary for Science (S4)
1000 Independence Ave.,
SW., Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Quadrennial Technology Review (DOE–QTR)

We are concerned that the Quadrennial Technology Review omits promising fuel cell and hydrogen technologies that are on the cusp of commercialization: residential distributed combined heat and power generation, refuelable UPS for computer and cell tower back up, fork lift motive fuel cell power. Other nations including the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and South Korea have major programs to actively promote these applications to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce demand on the grid, and reduce central power generation fuel usage.

We agree and applaud language supporting "request for information" and having DOE role established to "enable options for the private sector". The DOE's role should not be to pick winners or losers but to allow the market to make those choices. The DOE should include a section on fuel cell and hydrogen technologies and cite progress made by the DOE in their technical validation projects where NREL has collected detailed data.

The RFI notes that DOE intends to review the draft QTR document, suggested changes and additions with "advisory committees, workshops, & expert discussion groups." We recommend that that the DOE includes the Hydrogen and fuel cell technology committee (HTAC) as a reviewer of this important document. HTAC was established by Congress to provide expert advice to the Secretary regarding hydrogen and fuel cell technology.

Sincerely,

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