



March 15, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
The U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
The U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510-7010

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a broad-based coalition of companies and trade associations from America's energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas, and electric utility industries. We are brought together by our shared commitment to revitalizing our economy and creating a secure and sustainable energy future.

As the Senate moves this month to consider a continuing resolution, we urge you to maintain funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program. The Program was initiated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to assist large nuclear, renewable energy, and other clean energy technology projects obtain the private sector funding often scarce for innovative and new project types. Today, the private investment spurred by the Program is generating clean energy for the power grid, inducing development of manufacturing facilities in the United States, and creating jobs.

Two provisions in the House-passed Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011—Sections 1425 and 3001—would, if carried into law, likely put a dead stop to all clean energy projects with loan guarantee applications still pending with DOE. These are projects in which significant private capital has already been invested and for which have people already been hired. Rescinding the funds would cause the loss of billions of dollars of capital investment as well as the loss of significant tax revenue for the Federal government in excess of expenditures should the projects move forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding the Council's positions or for further information on our industries.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson
President