



September 25, 2012

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Acting Director Zients:

With the recent passage of a continuing resolution which funds government programs at the current rate of operations until March 27, 2013, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is writing to urge the Department of Energy (DOE) to continue to fund the programs that were funded under the FY12 congressional budget. In particular, we encourage DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, after taking potential sequestration into account, to keep individual programs within the Office at proportionally similar levels to the FY12 congressionally approved ones, as laid out in the current continuing resolution.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power and commercial end-users. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. The coalition's diverse business membership is united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future for America.

The Council believes that continued and sustained funding for programs under the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is in the best interest of American taxpayers and supports a well-reasoned national energy strategy that improves our economic conditions at home and strengthens America's competitiveness in the global marketplace. Moving funds around within these programs is very damaging for the businesses, non-profits, universities and other organizations that contract with the Department.

Affordable, homegrown and clean energy sources are powering the U.S. economy with jobs and investment, and are promoting the security and diversity of our energy supply. Given the challenging economic environment and significant budget constraints, it is critical that the Department of Energy maintain current funding levels as laid out in FY2012 in order to support the research, development and deployment of these technologies needed to foster market competition here and abroad and to ensure that the United States becomes the world leader in clean energy technology.

In addition, the Council acknowledges the need for government and stakeholders to work together to address post-sequestration requirements in the event Congress does not reach a budget agreement. The Council would appreciate the opportunity to work with you in this regard,

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President

Cc: Daniel Inouye, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Thad Cochran, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Dianne Feinstein, Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Norm Dicks, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chair, House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
Peter Visclosky, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development