



July 19, 2010

The Honorable Mark Udall
United State Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

As you know, Majority Leader Reid is now in the process of compiling an energy package which is expected to be released before the August recess. As part of this legislation, The BCSE strongly supports including the creation of a nonprofit "patriotic corporation" being referred to as the Energy Independence Trust (EIT) to provide low-cost financing to utilities, local governments and small businesses to implement efficiency measures, distributed generation of renewable resources, electrification of transit, transmission, small and utility scale renewable projects or retrofit of the transportation industry through natural gas or other alternatives to oil.

The Council hopes that you can act as a voice for including such an initiative moving forward this Congress and urges you to contact Senator Reid in support of this important measure.

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is an industry coalition that includes companies and trade associations representing currently available clean energy technologies in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and natural gas industries, as well as companies and registries involved in greenhouse gas emission reduction projects.

The Council supports immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation with a framework that provides predictable and market-based approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and that expands the use of readily available clean energy resources and technologies. We are pleased that Senator Reid is moving forward with an energy and climate proposal and believes the EIT should be incorporated into whatever energy legislation moves forward this session.

The EIT would complement the proposed Clean Energy Development Administration (CEDA), which is included in the American Clean Energy and Leadership Act, S.1462, and which is more focused on helping clean technology companies by providing late-stage financing. In contrast, EIT would exclusively provide project finance to increase the deployment rate of proven, fully commercial clean technologies.

To perform services as a non-profit lender, the EIT should have the ability to borrow from the US treasury department similar to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). However, in order to remain budget neutral, we want to emphasize that this nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization would not be an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government and thus would not have the "full faith and credit" backing. In that regard, EIT would be akin to the Red Cross. The nonprofit status of the EIT would make it eligible to receive tax deductible donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

We sincerely appreciate the time that you and your staff have spent championing clean energy and energy efficiency in the past. We pledge our commitment to continue working with you in support of energy and climate legislation and look forward to continue this conversation about innovative finance through the EIT.

A complete copy of the Council's energy policy and tax priorities are attached for your reference. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me in the Council's offices.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Lisa Jacobson in black ink.

Lisa Jacobson
President
Attachment