



July 23, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen Mikulski and Feinstein and Ranking Members Shelby and Alexander:

As you consider action on the fiscal year 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations bill the [Business Council for Sustainable Energy \(BCSE\)](#) requests that funding for programs within the Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) be funded at least at current levels and that the Senate reject the steep funding cuts recently passed by the House of Representatives in their version of the fiscal year 2014 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill (H.R.2609). Over the years, these important EERE programs have helped to diversify our nation's energy portfolio, have led to job creation in new and emerging energy technologies, and are helping to make the United States energy supply more secure, reliable, and clean.

The House Energy and Water Appropriations bill totals \$30.4 billion – a cut of \$2.9 billion below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level and \$4.1 billion below the President's request, and is approximately \$700 million below the level caused by sequestration. Programs within the Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy are impacted by a disproportionate share of these steep funding cuts. BCSE recognizes that in this year of tight budget constraints Congress will need to carefully scrutinize each and every dollar. Without stable and consistent funding, however, many of these important programs, and the value they create for the U.S. taxpayer, will be lost.

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 [Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook](#), which was recently released by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, demonstrates the way in which 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.<sup>1</sup> BCSE encourages Congress to continue to support research, development and deployment of these

---

<sup>1</sup> Materials regarding the *Factbook* are attached. For a complete copy of the *Factbook*, please visit the Council's website at [www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook.html](http://www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook.html).

technologies to foster market competition here and abroad and to ensure that the United States becomes the world leader in clean energy technology. For example:

- Energy efficiency programs, including the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP), better building technologies, building codes and standards, industrial technologies, vehicles, and advanced manufacturing, drive economic growth, promote the competitiveness of U.S. industries, and save consumers money.
- Net zero energy building RD&D optimizes and combines the best high-value energy efficiency and on-site renewable and distributed energy applications in order to lower costs, emissions, and water use, and to compensate for deteriorating electric grid reliability and power quality. Research and Development in smart grid software and hardware, as well as modular, inter-operable renewable and distributed energy (and hybrid systems) for electric grid interface help to harden critical infrastructure.
- The Department of Energy's Water Power Program is an important source of support for the researchers, scientists and developers working to grow hydropower's contribution to our country's clean energy resources.
- The SunShot Initiative is helping to make solar energy cost-competitive with other sources of electricity by 2020. The SunShot Initiative focuses on cost reductions in all parts of the value chain, from materials research and manufacturing processes to permitting times and installation best practices and has helped the industry have its best year ever in 2012 while reducing the installed cost of solar by 20 percent.
- Wind energy research and development are delivering value for taxpayers by fostering the development of a domestic energy source that strengthens our national security, provides rural economic development, spurs new high-tech jobs, and protects the environment.
- Research and development for natural gas technology development and improvement will ensure natural gas is used, wisely, safely and efficiently.
- Fuel cell and hydrogen technologies produce jobs in domestic and export markets and promote energy independence and environmental stewardship.
- The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has served to collect, analyze, and disseminate independent and impartial energy information to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment. This important work is critical if EIA is to provide the American Public and policy makers with this vital information.

The Council looks forward to continuing its work with you and members of the Appropriations Committee in the coming weeks and months as you strive to get the most value out of limited federal dollars. We request the opportunity to meet with your staff to further discuss the Council's position and support for these critical energy programs.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson, President

CC: Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development