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Contact: Laura Tierney  
Email: [ltierney@bcse.org](mailto:ltierney@bcse.org)  
Office: 202.785.0507

**Clean Energy Businesses Welcome Introduction of State Energy Race to the Top Initiative**

Washington, DC -- The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) – a coalition representing the energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas industries – released the following statement today from Council President Lisa Jacobson on the introduction of the [State Energy Race to the Top Initiative](#) by U.S. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) and Senator Manchin (D-WV).

“Clean energy businesses applaud Senator Warner and Senator Manchin for introducing legislation to enact a State Energy Race to the Top Initiative which would encourage and reward innovation at the state level to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry.

“Energy efficiency and demand response help consumers and businesses reduce their energy costs—pumping more money into the economy for investment and job creation. A federal initiative to reward states for innovation in policies to encourage energy efficiency is a win-win for consumers, businesses, governments, states and the economy.

“As evidenced in the [Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook](#), released by the BCSE and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, traditional energy sources have been declining over the past five years, and natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency are on the rise. These changes are increasing the diversity of the country’s energy mix, improving our energy security, cutting energy waste, increasing our energy productivity, and reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

“The *Factbook* shows that energy efficiency has played a role in the shift to a cleaner economy. Energy efficiency has allowed major power consumers - such as manufacturers - to cut their energy costs. *The Factbook* shows that between 2007-2012 energy use declined 6.1 percent as the result of energy efficiency while the nation’s Gross Domestic Product grew by 3 percent. These trends show that the economy can grow while using energy more efficiently.”

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*The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (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. Established in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. For more information on the Council, please visit: [www.bcse.org](http://www.bcse.org) and download [Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook](#) for the latest industry information.*