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Clean Energy Businesses Applaud the Release of President Obama's Climate Action Plan

Washington, DC -- The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) – a coalition representing the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy industries – released the following statement today from Council President Lisa Jacobson in response to President Barack Obama's address on US climate change policy at Georgetown University.

"President Obama's historic address today rightly focuses on common-sense policies that will utilize a wide range of commercially-available solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, modernize our electricity grid and better prepare the nation for the impacts of climate change.

"The Council praises the broad scope of the Climate Action Plan and welcomes its recognition of the role of the business community as a partner in its implementation.

"Many of the readily-available technologies needed to address climate change and make the nation more resilient are cost-effective and have significant economic benefits in terms of employment and increased productivity.

"As evidenced by the *Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook*, released by the BCSE and Bloomberg New Energy Finance earlier this year, US emissions dropped 13 percent between 2007 and 2012, while GDP grew by 3 percent during the same period. This data shows that the US economy can grow while reducing emissions.

"The Climate Action Plan includes mention of a Presidential Memorandum issued today that directs the Environmental Protection Agency to expeditiously work to complete carbon pollution standards for both new and existing power plants. The BCSE favors a federal, legislative approach to address climate change. However, in the absence of congressional action, EPA regulation of power plants is appropriate and helps to put the US on a path to meet its domestic emission reduction target.

"Further, while acknowledging the challenges with Clean Air Act regulation of carbon emissions, if applied appropriately, market signals stemming from federal regulatory action could be significant. This would lead to a more diverse US energy mix, improvements in US energy security and enhanced energy reliability and energy productivity."

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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 and download [Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook](#) for the latest industry information.