



November 24, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

As the 116th Congress completes its work before the end of the year, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) urges you to act on American energy policy, including:

- Enact robust funding for clean energy programs across the federal government
- Enact clean energy policy legislation; and
- Extend, and in some cases modernize, clean energy tax policy.

Congressional action in these areas will be an important step to modernize U.S. energy policy and help provide much-needed relief to stabilize investment and help clean energy industries begin to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations representing the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially available clean energy technologies, products, and services. Its membership includes project developers, industrial manufacturers, equipment and technology providers, independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power companies, and energy and environmental service providers.

BCSE is pleased to have an independent initiative under its banner, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN). CEBN represents small- and medium-sized businesses providing clean energy technologies and services. Together, BCSE and CEBN represent a broad range of the clean energy economy, from Fortune 100 companies to small businesses working in all 50 states. These businesses have been significant growth industries over the past decade, providing over 3 million jobs across the country, with the majority of those jobs in small businesses.

Enact Robust Funding for Clean Energy Programs Across the Federal Government

BCSE urges Congress to enact FY2021 spending legislation to provide robust funding for clean energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment programs (RDD&D) at the [Department of Energy](#), as well as clean energy programs found in funding bills for the Departments of [Agriculture](#), Housing and Urban Development, [State](#), [Interior](#),

[EPA](#), and [Homeland Security](#). A chart with BCSE member preferences for funding levels in the House or Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations bills can be found [here](#). BCSE members also recommend support to states, localities, and tribes to manage current cost shortfalls as well as to strategically invest in clean energy sectors and resilience. [Programs that support building retrofits and residential clean energy investment](#) are key as they help clean energy workers that have seen over 454,000 jobs lost since March, at the beginning of the pandemic, or 13% of the clean energy workforce. An important goal with these expenditures is to leverage private sector investment as much as possible.

Enact Clean Energy Policy Legislation

BCSE members also urge action on energy policy legislation this year, notably S.2657, the “American Energy Innovation Act,” as a foundational set of policies with strong bipartisan support that will spur investment and create jobs. The House of Representatives has also moved several pieces of energy legislation, such as H.R.4447, the “Clean Economy Jobs and Innovation Act,” that can be paired with the many important provisions of the bipartisan Senate energy legislation.

Extend, and in Some Cases Modernize, Clean Energy Tax Policy

Further, there are adjustments to current tax law that would provide market continuity and enable the tax incentives on the books to be utilized as Congress intended. Of note, not all BCSE members endorse or take a position on the recommendations below.

- Expand the eligibility and delay the phase-downs for clean energy tax measures.
 - This could impact biogas, energy storage, carbon capture utilization and storage, and sustainable transportation, in addition to PTC and ITC eligible technologies.
- Strengthen and modernize energy efficiency tax incentives.
- Provide direct pay mechanisms for the investment tax credit (ITC) and production tax credit (PTC) to make the tax provisions refundable.

Conclusion

Please see the June 16 [BCSE testimony](#) before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on clean energy industries, for more information.

We appreciate your consideration of these priorities and BCSE members would be pleased to meet with your staff via conference call or via an online meeting to provide more detail. Please contact Ruth McCormick at rmccormick@bcse.org or by telephone at 202-557-4002, if you would like to arrange a follow-up conversation.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson, President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations