

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to express our appreciation for the efforts you have made to build bipartisan support for durable energy policies to improve and repair aging U.S. infrastructure. We understand your legislative proposal, the Energy Infrastructure Act, will provide the framework for the energy title in the larger infrastructure package that is being negotiated. BCSE supports the discussion draft's strong recognition of the role that clean energy and energy efficiency play to sustain and improve our nation's infrastructure and we urge its enactment. We also understand that as the legislation continues to be considered there may be opportunities to add measures and make refinements.

As you know, the BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, energy storage, natural gas, renewable energy, sustainable transportation and emerging decarbonization technology sectors. It includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public utilities, equipment manufacturers, commercial end users and service providers in energy and environmental markets. Founded in 1992, the coalition's diverse business membership is united around the urgent need for revitalization of the U.S. economy and the creation of a clean, secure, and reliable energy future in America.

The BCSE is pleased to have an independent small- and medium-size businesses initiative under its banner, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN). Together, the BCSE and CEBN represent a broad range of the clean energy economy, from Fortune 100 companies to small businesses working in all 50 states. On a national basis, these industries support over 3 million U.S. jobs.

A broad portfolio of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies should be central to infrastructure improvement, with a focus on resilience and improved public health and safety. Clean energy and energy efficiency are critical infrastructure sectors. They also provide the power for our nation's other infrastructure assets.

We appreciate that the discussion draft of the Energy Infrastructure Act takes a broad-based and technology-inclusive approach and would provide deployment support in many important technology areas. These span demand-side energy efficiency, biomass and waste to energy, combined heat and power, energy storage, fuel cells, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind, microgrids, carbon management and utilization, hydrogen, critical minerals, sustainable transportation, and digital software and tools, among others.



BCSE Letter on Energy Infrastructure Act

Specifically, BCSE supports the funding included for the programs and demonstration projects enacted in the Energy Act of 2020, as well as provisions in the discussion draft to enhance grid modernization and resilience; energy storage and battery supply chains; battery recycling and second-life applications; hydrogen production; energy efficiency; demand response; electric interstate and interregional electric transmission planning and siting; power distribution; hydropower; and dam safety.

In addition, policy support to further catalyze deployment, increase investment via the tax code, and develop the clean energy and energy efficiency workforce should be considered. Measures to revitalize homes, state and federal facilities such as schools, public housing, and military bases, would enable the U.S. to better compete, create jobs and address climate change. Understanding the jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, we are hopeful that those measures will also be enacted this year.

Again, thank you for your leadership. BCSE looks forward to working with you and your staff as Congress considers the Energy Infrastructure Act. Please feel free to have your staff reach out to Ruth McCormick at rmccormick@bcse.org for further information or to schedule a meeting with BCSE members.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy