

September 27, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States 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 Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

On behalf of the members of the [Business Council for Sustainable Energy \(BCSE\)](#), I write to express the coalition's strong support for immediate enactment of the bipartisan infrastructure legislation, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as continued work by Congress and the Biden administration to develop a budget reconciliation package with robust and transformative clean energy and energy efficiency provisions.

The Council, founded in 1992, is a broad-based clean energy trade association. Its members span many industry sectors, including energy efficiency, energy storage, natural gas, renewable energy, sustainable transportation and emerging decarbonization technologies. BCSE also has 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 supporting over 3 million U.S. jobs.

Enact the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as a Foundation for the Clean Energy Transition

BCSE urges Congress to enact the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act as soon as possible. Specifically, the energy title in the legislation takes a broad-based and technology-inclusive approach and would provide deployment support in many important technology areas to achieve our national economic recovery and climate change objectives. BCSE appreciates the funding included for the programs and demonstration projects enacted in the Energy Act of 2020 as well as investment in grid modernization, sustainable transportation and resilience. Overall, the bill provides needed deployment support for demand-side and supply-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 other areas.

Pass a Budget Reconciliation Package with Robust Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Provisions

Building upon the bipartisan infrastructure legislation, BCSE members urge Congress to pass policies to further catalyze deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency throughout the economy. This



includes expanded investment through the tax code and programs to support manufacturing and workforce development. In addition, measures to revitalize homes, public facilities such as schools, housing, ports, and military bases, would enable the U.S. to better compete, create jobs and address climate change.

Please see several of the recommendations below from BCSE members for inclusion in the budget reconciliation legislation. *As a diverse coalition, not all members take positions or endorse all the recommendations included in this document.*

Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Tax Measures

Congress is developing a reconciliation package that includes new, expanded and modernized tax credits for renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, electric transmission, sustainable transportation, hydrogen and carbon capture and storage, among other areas. To have their highest impact, tax measures should be inclusive of a broad range of technologies, should have comparable incentive structures and should be in sync with the investment and project development cycles of these sectors. Long-term and predictable credits in the ten-year range will have the greatest impact and lead to steady growth. Further, for energy efficiency measures, reforms should also be made to improve their market impact and in the hydropower sector, incentives to spur investment in existing infrastructure safety, environmental protection and resilience are needed. BCSE urges the inclusion of a robust, long-term clean energy and energy efficiency tax package, with direct pay provisions, in the reconciliation legislation.

Energy Efficiency

To ensure modern, sustainable infrastructure, Congress must focus on measures to promote energy efficiency and resilience in homes, businesses, state and federal facilities such as schools, public housing, military bases, as well as in manufacturing plants.

The types of federal solutions that should be included in the reconciliation package include support to states, localities, small businesses, homeowners, and owners of multifamily housing units, public buildings and critical facilities, workforce development, and adjustments to tax policy, among other proposals.

Resilience

The nation's energy infrastructure and delivery systems are vulnerable to many hazards, such as severe weather (hurricanes, floods, tornados, ice storms, extended heat waves and cold snaps), earthquakes, wildfires, accidents and errors, physical and cyber-attacks and other events. For this reason, BCSE supports a national focus on resilience that includes pre-disaster mitigation and response measures to be better prepared for disasters. As we have seen this year with numerous events, this is an enormous task that would benefit from well-coordinated, federal-state energy resilience actions and through additional federal support included in the reconciliation package.



BCSE Letter on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Build Back Better Act

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides important policies and investment to modernize and improve the resilience of our nation's infrastructure and Congress should build upon this foundation in the reconciliation package.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funding

The reconciliation package should include support for resilience planning and measures at the federal, state, and local levels. America needs modern energy infrastructure to maintain industrial leadership and to protect homes and businesses from more intense and frequent extreme weather. Additional policies are needed to expand the use of energy efficiency, resilience and clean energy solutions in our businesses, homes, state, and federal facilities such as schools, public housing, military bases, and for our critical infrastructure: powering our pipelines, cellular towers, data centers, water & sewage plants, among other areas.

Wildfires

Provisions to address wildfires were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. However, additional funding for the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Interior to address wildfires and drought should be included in the reconciliation bill, as well as research and development funding for grid resilience and wildfire technology.

Microgrids

Microgrids are a key tool to ensuring reliable power in areas that will be faced with the most severe repercussions of climate change, such as coastal states. With the ability to island, microgrids can provide power during extreme weather events like wildfires or droughts and provide less expensive energy during periods when energy costs are high. BCSE supports inclusion of tax credits in the reconciliation package, among other policies, to deploy microgrids.

BCSE appreciates the significant work underway by Congress to enact policies that will speed our nation's economic recovery as well as head the urgent call to invest in climate mitigation and resilience. The policies included in the bipartisan infrastructure legislation as well as the policies being considered under the budget reconciliation package represent the breadth of policies that are needed to create jobs, expand economic opportunity, enhance our competitiveness as a nation, while we also address climate change.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy