

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
394 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Murphy, Chair
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Murphy and Ranking Members Shelby and Capito:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) I am writing to request funding in the FY2022 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill for states, including state and territory energy offices, to improve resilience and to upgrade energy and water systems in mission critical facilities. These mission critical facilities include hospitals, schools, community shelters, non-profit nursing homes, and first responder facilities. Private capital should be used for energy efficiency improvements with federal funds directed to emergency response upgrades.

In addition, we request that Congress encourage the Administration to fully fund the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which was established by the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA, P.L. 115-254). The program should be funded at \$3.6 billion, or at 6% of the disaster relief fund as authorized by the DRRA, whichever is greater. The pre-disaster mitigation funds in the BRIC program can be used to provide energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart/micro-grid upgrades to address resilience. The program is currently underfunded, and FEMA should encourage greater use of the available funds for this purpose. Congress should also ensure FEMA implements the BRIC program to assist communities in adopting or updating building codes, in training code officials and builders on updated or existing building codes, and in boosting efforts to ensure pre-disaster mitigation projects and post-disaster projects are done to code.

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 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



BCSE Letter on FY2022 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

states and over 350 Congressional districts. On a national basis, these industries support over 3 million U.S. jobs.

A broad portfolio of clean energy, including demand-side energy efficiency and CHP, hydropower, geothermal energy, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, carbon management and utilization, hydrogen, critical minerals, and sustainable transportation should be central to infrastructure improvement, with a focus on resilience and improved public health and safety. BCSE has worked with state energy offices, state emergency managers, and others, to advocate for and to improve resilience in communities across the U.S. Examples of resilience projects can be found [here](#).

Assistance to states and territories to update mission-critical facilities will offer far greater reliability and durability of service for communities by ensuring these locations have resilient energy systems with access to longer term back-up power, efficient HVAC, lighting, and hot water systems. State energy offices are well-positioned to identify and prioritize mission-critical facilities in environmental justice and lower-income communities, to advance local resilience, recovery, and workforce benefits where they are needed most.

Furthermore, FEMA has implemented section 1206 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act through the Public Assistance program. However, the Agency has not implemented section 1206(a), which permits FEMA to assist communities in adopting or updating building codes post disaster, in training code officials and builders on updated or existing building codes, and in boosting efforts to ensure rebuilding work communitywide is done to code. BCSE urges Congress to ensure that FEMA take immediate steps to implement section 1206(a) as required under the law, which will ensure that rebuilding is done to modern standards, helping impacted communities be better positioned to confront future natural hazards.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to further discuss these recommendations as well as our work on resilience, and we look forward to working with you throughout the FY2022 budget cycle. Please feel free to reach out to Ruth McCormick at <mailto:rmccormick@bcse.org> with any questions or to arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy