

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
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Merkley and Ranking Members Shelby and Murkowski:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to request funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and for the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management (BOEM), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in the Fiscal Year 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Bill. The Council urges robust funding for the EPA offices of Air and Radiation, the Enforcement Division, and the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, related to international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, the Renewable Fuel Standard, water management, and the ENERGY STAR program. The Council also urges additional funding for the Bureau of Offshore Energy Management's Office of Renewable Energy Programs and Energy Studies Program, as well as Fish and Wildlife Service's offshore wind planning and consultation efforts.

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

As a business group working to advance clean energy policies, BCSE has seen first-hand the importance of the federal role EPA fills in sharing information about new technologies and practices to help speed adoption of clean energy, and to allow consumers to make more informed

decisions about energy usage. EPA initiatives help businesses manage environmental issues, foster transparency and best practices in emissions and water management, and leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability. EPA also provides transparent, standardized, and independent data and expertise that cannot be replicated with the same credibility by private sector or non-governmental organizations.

Maintaining America's Status as an Energy Leader

BCSE requests funding for programs including the **CHP Partnership, Green Power Partnership, Natural Gas Star, Methane Challenge, AgStar, Center for Corporate Climate Leadership, SmartWay Transport Partnership**, and others, which embody longstanding public-private endeavors that benefit American businesses and help them continue to compete on a global scale.

These EPA initiatives provide market transparency, encourage voluntary action, and identify companies that are leaders in businesses and in environmental protection. Additionally, EPA's laboratories lead the world in capabilities that make the United States preeminent in research and analysis which supports private sector capabilities to enhance economic growth and emissions reductions simultaneously.

In addition, the **ENERGY STAR** program has a proven track record of success and should receive \$80 million in funding. Through brand recognition, information and positive publicity, the ENERGY STAR program has provided the catalyst for many consumers, homeowners, businesses, and state and local governments to invest in energy efficiency.

The **Renewable Fuel Standard**, which is implemented by the **Office of Transportation and Air Quality**, has enabled the biomass and biogas industry to help meet lower carbon energy needs. The Council encourages funding for EPA for the processing of pathways and applications to enable biomass, biogas, renewable natural gas (RNG), and waste-to-energy projects to produce RINs for electricity. Electricity derived from biogas, RNG, renewable biomass, and solid forms of biomass, is currently being used as a transportation fuel and should be credited accordingly under the RFS program. Congress should appropriate \$1.5 million in funding for EPA to take final action within 90 days on any registration application pending for more than one year to participate in the Renewable Fuels Pathway II Rule.

EPA's **State and Local Climate and Energy Program** offers expertise about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change policies and programs to interested state, local, and tribal governments. By providing these resources, EPA removes barriers that would otherwise prohibit action at the local level due to resource constraints or lack of information on best practices. Through its programs on renewable energy, renewable natural gas (RNG), natural gas, combined heat and power and energy efficiency, EPA encourages the use of clean, efficient, and market-ready technologies that can lower costs and improve resilience in addition to lowering emissions.

EPA is also engaged in a variety of international activities to advance climate change science, monitor our environment, and promote activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. EPA establishes partnerships, provides leadership, and shares technical expertise to support these activities.

BCSE also requests that the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Office of Renewable Energy Programs (OREP) and Environmental Studies Program (ESP)** be funded at \$70 and \$52.2 million, respectively. OREP and ESP play crucial roles in the development of offshore wind energy. Providing additional resources to these offices will be crucial in helping BOEM process the unprecedented number of offshore wind projects in the permitting queue while continuing to conduct additional lease sales and identify new lease areas on the Outer Continental Shelf. We also request an increase by no less than \$500,000 in funding for additional **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)** planning and consultation staff to accommodate FWS' growing role in conducting Endangered Species Act evaluations.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to share information from the 2021 edition of the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) which shows how clean energy growth has remained strong even in a turbulent 2020 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