

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr, Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture & Rural
Development
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Harris, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture & Rural
Development
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen DeLauro and Bishop and Ranking Members Granger and Harris:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) I am writing to urge Congress to maintain mandatory funding and to provide full discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) in the Fiscal Year 2023 Agriculture and Rural Development Appropriations Bill. Full funding will help bring the benefits of the REAP program to more farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses through continued investment in rural communities.

BCSE also encourages the inclusion of report language calling for a \$10 million, or greater, reserve fund for underutilized renewable energy technologies such as biogas, distributed wind power, and small hydro. This would help ensure that farmers and rural small businesses can deploy a full range of renewable energy technologies. In addition, funding for the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) should be supported to assist rural areas with upgrades and resilience.

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.



Rural clean energy programs have provided the means for agriculture-based entrepreneurs to launch initiatives to generate jobs and economic development – from wind, geothermal, hydro and solar power, to biogas and advanced biofuels, to biopower, bio-based products, renewable chemicals, and energy efficiency. The REAP program has historically been oversubscribed, and full mandatory and discretionary funding is needed to bolster jobs, economic relief, and climate change mitigation.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to share information from the 2022 edition of the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) which shows that despite the lingering pandemic, global supply chain bottlenecks, rising inflation, and considerable uncertainty in 2021, the clean energy and energy efficiency transition continued, with a record-breaking year for deployment of renewable power, battery storage and sustainable transportation, and an unprecedented injection of new capital into companies, technologies and projects. We encourage Congress to build upon this momentum with sustained support for clean energy programs in FY2023.

BCSE looks forward to working with you throughout the FY2023 budget cycle. Please feel free to reach out to Ruth McCormick at rmccormick@bcse.org with any questions or to arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson
President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy