

April 21, 2022

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 Tammy Baldwin, Chair  
Subcommittee on Agriculture & Rural  
Development  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture & Rural  
Development  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Baldwin and Ranking Members Shelby and Hoeven:

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](mailto:rmccormick@bcse.org) with any questions or to arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson  
President  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy