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 Dianne Feinstein, Chair
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC  20510

The Honorable John Kennedy, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Feinstein and Ranking Members Shelby and Kennedy:

As Congress moves forward with the Fiscal Year 2023 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) urges you to continue to support clean energy and energy efficiency programs at the Department of Energy (DOE).

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.

Our organizations were encouraged to see Congress enact the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), P.L. 117-58, to provide an influx of funding for clean energy and energy efficiency programs at DOE in areas such as weatherization and state energy programs, hydrogen hubs, and the new DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations. Congress has recognized the United States of America must lead the world in clean energy and energy efficiency technologies to
meet the need for energy security and grid reliability and safety, while boosting economic growth and reducing environmental impacts. While the IIJA investment is monumental, it does not negate the need for sustained, year-on-year increases to all of DOE’s clean energy, energy efficiency, and innovation activities.

We urge Congress to continue to adequately fund Department of Energy (DOE) clean energy programs for the offices of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FE), Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (EDER), Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and other essential DOE clean energy programs. These federal research development and deployment funds can be used to leverage business investment to accelerate deployment and emissions reductions in all sectors of the economy.

The 2022 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook recently released by the BCSE and BloombergNEF 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 you to build upon this momentum with sustained support for clean energy programs in FY2023.

The Council welcomes the opportunity to share information from the Factbook and we look forward to working with you throughout the FY2023 budget cycle. A document containing FY2023 clean energy industry funding requests for BCSE members in the renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage, and natural gas sectors can be found here for your reference. 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