

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
394 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons, Chair
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Coons and Ranking Members Shelby and Graham:

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy urges you to significantly increase funding for international clean energy programs and multi-lateral institutions in the FY2023 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) Appropriations Bill. The FY2022 enacted levels for SFOPS were lower than desired; we encourage Congress to respond to the Biden Administration's FY23 budget request and significantly increase appropriations for international clean energy and climate programs. An increased level of funding and increased international engagement will help achieve a leadership position in the global market for U.S. clean energy industries.

Recent global events and the impacts on energy markets, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and rising global temperatures, have underscored the imperative of U.S. international leadership in fostering global cooperation and building resilient economies that can endure current and future energy, health, and environmental crises. U.S. financial contributions to international climate and energy programs and institutions is an important part of this leadership.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power utilities, project developers, commercial end users and service providers. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially available clean energy technologies, products and services. These industries together support over 3 million jobs spread across every state and congressional district in the United States and are united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future in America.

In the FY2023 SFOPS Appropriations bill, the Council supports the inclusion of:

- An increase of the overall international affairs budget to accommodate an expanded level of support for climate and energy programs.
- Full funding for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and support of continued U.S. engagement at the GCF Board.



- Full funding of U.S. commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Full funding for renewable energy programs, sustainable landscapes and adaptation programs in the Bilateral Economic Assistance accounts.

Strong U.S. support for these programs will not only assist developing countries to build climate-resilient economies but will help ensure that American companies are highly competitive in the global marketplace for clean energy technology solutions and services. These programs address policy and market issues that enable the deployment of the full suite of clean energy technologies, including energy infrastructure modernization, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

As an accredited business observer to the UNFCCC for thirty years, the Council can attest to the critical role this inter-governmental process has played in shaping the markets for existing clean energy technologies in all countries, and especially the developing world. In addition, the UNFCCC and IPCC provide critical scientific assessments that assist U.S. companies and countries alike in their plans for energy infrastructure and investments.

Preserving and expanding U.S. financial contributions to these international programs and institutions, including bi-lateral clean energy programs, will increase the chance that countries deploy high quality American technologies. Making these financial contributions will protect and promote the business interests of American companies, including the defense of intellectual property rights, the creation of an open and transparent system of accounting, the ability to define and use market-based mechanisms, the ability to access financial mechanisms to fund projects overseas, and the ability to meet corporate sustainability goals. U.S. government leadership in the international community is critical to ensure these outcomes.

We believe the rapid deployment of U.S. clean energy services and technologies will benefit both the U.S. domestic economy through jobs and manufacturing, while also making a major contribution to the reduction of carbon emissions in developing countries. With the assistance of our national labs and public-private partnerships, U.S. companies have developed cost-effective clean energy technologies that can provide multiple benefits both at home and abroad. In developing countries, U.S. firms can deliver higher quality clean energy products and better after-sale service than their international competitors. There are also market barriers that need addressing, especially for U.S. firms that are smaller in size. We urge the GCF and other recipients of U.S. assistance to support programs and policies that help open markets to smaller-scale technologies.

We would be pleased to meet with your staff to discuss the Council's views. For further information or to schedule a meeting please contact Ruth McCormick at rmccormick@bcse.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson
President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy