

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Admin.
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Admin.
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Murray and Heinrich, Vice-Chair Collins, and Ranking Member Hoeven:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to request robust funding for clean energy programs in the Fiscal Year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Bill, including full \$30 million mandatory funding and robust discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and robust funding for the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP).

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. Robust funding for both REAP and RESP is needed to bolster jobs, economic relief, and climate change mitigation and to bring the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency to more farmers, ranchers, and small businesses in rural communities.

BCSE welcomes the opportunity to share information from the 2023 edition of the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook¹](#) which shows that the clean energy transition is now hard-wired into our economy. We encourage you to build upon this momentum and success with sustained support for clean energy programs in FY2024.

¹ [Sustainable Energy in America 2023 Factbook](#), Business Council for Sustainable Energy and BloombergNEF, March 2023.



BCSE looks forward to working with you throughout the FY2024 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

About the BCSE

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. BCSE has been an accredited business observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for over 30 years.

The Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN), representing independent small-and medium-sized businesses, is an independent affiliate of BCSE. Together, 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.