

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Andy Harris, Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Admin.
1536 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Admin.
2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Cole and Harris and Ranking Members DeLauro and Bishop:

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 2025 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Bill, including \$30 million in discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and robust funding for the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP). As a diverse coalition, not all BCSE members endorse or take a position on the recommended request.

Rural clean energy programs have provided the means for agriculture-based entrepreneurs to launch initiatives that 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.

Funding for both REAP and RESP remains necessary to bring the benefits of clean energy and energy efficiency to more farmers, ranchers, and small businesses in rural communities and to bolster jobs and economic growth.

BCSE welcomes the opportunity to share information with you from the 2024 edition of the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#)¹, published by BCSE and BloombergNEF, which shows the growth of renewable energy and natural gas in electricity generation, along with lower U.S. energy consumption due to energy efficiency. A document with top facts from the 2024 edition of the *Sustainable Energy in America Factbook* can be found [here](#).

¹ <https://bcse.org/market-trends/>



BCSE looks forward to working with you throughout the FY2025 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), comprising independent small- and medium-sized businesses, is an independent affiliate of BCSE. Together, BCSE and CEBN encompass a broad range of the clean energy economy, from Fortune 100 companies to small businesses working in all 50 states and more than 400 Congressional districts. On a national basis, these industries support more than 3 million U.S. jobs.

CC: Members of House Appropriations Committee