

April 18, 2025

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

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

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Collins and Murkowski and Ranking Members Murray and Merkley:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to request funding in FY2026 for offices and programs at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Interior (DOI) impacting energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, natural gas, and sustainable transportation.

Continued federal support of the EPA and DOI is needed for our increasingly diverse energy portfolio at this time. The United States is expecting unprecedented energy demand from new industrial sources, transportation, onshoring of U.S. manufacturing, and a burst of new data centers planned by tech companies in the race for artificial intelligence mastery.

With the EPA and DOI's support, the United States has seen dramatic growth in the use of energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy technologies. According to the [2025 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#), natural gas and renewables provided 67% of U.S. electricity in 2024, up from 47% just a decade ago. U.S. energy productivity has also increased 29% over the past 10 years, thanks to investments in energy efficiency.

As a diverse coalition, not all BCSE members endorse or take a position on the set of recommended requests.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Energy Programs

As a business group working to advance clean energy policies, BCSE has seen firsthand the importance of EPA's role in sharing information about new technologies and practices that speed the deployment of new energy sources and allow consumers to make more informed decisions about energy usage. EPA initiatives help businesses manage environmental issues, foster transparency and best practices in emissions and water management and develop leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability. The EPA provides transparent, standardized, and independent data and expertise that cannot be replicated with the same credibility by private sector or non-governmental organizations.



BCSE requests funding for EPA programs including the **CHP Partnership, Green Power Partnership, ENERGY STAR, Natural Gas Star, AgStar, Methane Challenge, Center for Corporate Climate Leadership, SmartWay Transport Partnership**, and more. These programs embody longstanding public-private endeavors that benefit American businesses and help them continue to compete on a global scale. These EPA initiatives also provide market transparency, encourage voluntary action, and identify companies that are leaders in businesses and in environmental protection. Additionally, the EPA's laboratories lead the world in capabilities that make the United States preeminent in research and analysis, supporting private sector capabilities to enhance economic growth and emissions reductions simultaneously.

The ENERGY STAR program serves many market sectors and is the foundation for energy efficiency programs across the country, from tax incentives to local utility incentive programs. While it is best known for its blue label on consumer products, the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager program is also critical for tracking and improving the energy performance of our nation's building stock. ENERGY STAR programs for new homes and manufacturing facilities are also growing in popularity and delivering increased impact. BCSE supports full and transparent funding for the ENERGY STAR program. We also support a fuel neutral approach to energy efficiency under ENERGY STAR that recognizes the importance of efficient natural gas products.

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), which is implemented by the **Office of Transportation and Air Quality**, has enabled the biomass and biogas industry to help meet lower carbon energy needs. The EPA has finally proposed the framework to enable electricity from biogas to qualify for renewable identification number (RIN) generation when biogas electricity is used to power electric vehicles. This is a great first step, but the program must be expanded to allow all RFS-qualifying feedstocks to participate in the electricity program. BCSE encourages funding for the EPA for the processing of pathways and applications to enable biomass and waste-to-energy projects to participate in the program at the earliest possible opportunity. Electricity derived from renewable biomass and solid forms of biomass is currently being used as a transportation fuel and should be credited accordingly under the RFS program. Congress should appropriate \$1 million in funding for the EPA to take final action within 90 days on any registration application or pathway petition to participate in the Renewable Fuels Pathway II Rule.

The State and Local Climate and Energy Program offers expertise about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change policies and programs to interested state, local, and tribal governments. By providing these resources, the EPA removes barriers that would otherwise prohibit action at the local level due to resource constraints or lack of information on best practices. Through its programs on energy efficiency, renewable energy, renewable natural gas (RNG), natural gas, and combined heat and power, the EPA encourages the use of clean, efficient, and market-ready technologies that can lower costs and improve resilience in addition to lowering emissions.

The EPA is also engaged in a variety of international activities to advance climate change science, monitor our environment, and promote activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The EPA establishes partnerships, provides leadership, and shares technical expertise to support these activities.



U.S. Department of Interior Programs

The U.S. Department of Interior has a critical role in renewable energy production on public lands and waters. BCSE requests funding to facilitate this transition to these new and emerging energy sources.

The **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s Office of Renewable Energy Program (OREP)** plays a crucial role in the development of offshore wind energy. Providing additional resources will help the processing of permits for offshore wind projects while allowing the Department to conduct additional lease sales and identify new lease areas on the Outer Continental Shelf. Funding is needed for the **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)** to ensure safety while deploying offshore wind projects. BCSE also supports funding for the **Bureau of Land Management** renewable energy management program, funding for planning and consultation services and staff at the **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**, funding for the **National Park Service** Historic Preservation Fund, and funding for the **U.S. Geological Survey** program to support supply chain research for emerging technologies.

Conclusion

BCSE looks forward to working with you throughout the FY2026 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

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a coalition of companies and trade associations that deploy clean energy and decarbonization solutions, with a sector focus on energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy. Established in 1992, members include investor-owned utilities, public power, independent power producers, project developers, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, environmental and energy market service companies, and more. 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 collaborates frequently with its small business division, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN), which encompasses a network of more than 8,000 cleantech business and community leaders across all 50 states. Collectively, BCSE and CEBN mobilize the full breadth of the clean energy economy, from innovators and small businesses to industry leaders and the trade associations that represent them. On a national basis, these industries support more than 3 million U.S. jobs.

CC: Members of Senate Appropriations Committee