

April 2, 2026

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and  
Water Development and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2187 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Kennedy and Fleischmann and Ranking Members Murray and Kaptur:

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) commends Congress for its bipartisan funding of energy programs during the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations process. BCSE encourages Congress to build upon this progress and provide robust funding for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in FY2027 in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, natural gas, and sustainable transportation.

Now more than ever, the United States must unleash a broad portfolio of energy solutions. America is experiencing unprecedented energy demand from new industrial sources, transportation, onshoring of U.S. manufacturing, and a burst of new data centers. Current projections indicate data centers could consume 9% to 17% of U.S. electricity by 2030, up from 4% to 5% today.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, home electricity costs have increased nearly 10% in the past year.<sup>2</sup> This economic burden is exacerbated by extreme weather and conditions that strain our aging energy system. According to the [2026 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#), produced by BCSE and BloombergNEF, extreme weather disasters cost the United States over \$800 billion in damages in 2025, equivalent to 2.6% of GDP.

Solutions in the energy efficiency, renewable energy, natural gas, energy storage, power grid, and sustainable fuels sectors will continue to grow over the next decade. These will be the energy resources available to meet growing energy demand, lower energy costs, and improve reliability through demand- and supply-side technologies.

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<sup>1</sup> EPRI. (February 2026). Powering Intelligence 2026: Updated Scenarios of U.S. Data Center Electricity Use and Power. <https://powering-intelligence.epri.com>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. (January 2026). Electric Power Monthly. [https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.php?t=table\\_5\\_03](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=table_5_03).

As such, supporting research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) for our increasingly diverse energy portfolio is critical. Sustained investments in RDD&D pay off in the long run. For instance, the Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) program has driven technological innovation for over 40 years. More than 2,100 firms supported by SBIR grants have been acquired, and more than 800 have gone public.<sup>3</sup>

On the international stage, the United States is falling behind in RDD&D investment compared to our global peers.<sup>4</sup> It is imperative that RDD&D investments are supported so that cutting edge technologies in advanced energy and transportation are made here in America.

Congress should continue to fund needed technical assistance to states and localities and also fund innovative RDD&D to ensure the United States retains its competitive edge in energy technologies, products, and services.

#### *BCSE Member Funding Requests*

While members of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy have submitted separate program funding requests to Congress, BCSE wishes to share these requests in a single document found [here](#). In this compilation, BCSE seeks to provide a comprehensive view of the breadth and scale of the investments needed to support energy RDD&D and reduce costs for U.S. taxpayers when affordability is a kitchen table issue for so many American families.

BCSE appreciates your consideration of these requests, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss them in more detail. Please reach out to Justin Cummings at [jcummings@bcse.org](mailto:jcummings@bcse.org) regarding your availability to meet.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson

*President*

Business Council for Sustainable Energy

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<sup>3</sup> Testimony of Jere W. Glover, Executive Director, Small Business Technology Council Before the Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, United States Senate. (September 2021). <https://sbtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SBTC-Jere-Glover-Written-Testimony-SSBC-Hearing-Sep-22-2021s.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Information Technology & Innovation Foundation. (February 2026). Tracking R&D Leadership: US Advantage Narrowing as China Gains Ground. <https://itif.org/publications/2026/02/09/tracking-rd-leadership-us-advantage-narrowing-as-china-gains-ground>.