

April 16, 2026

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

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

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2084 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Murkowski and Simpson and Ranking Members Merkley 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. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Interior (DOI) in FY 2027.

### ***U.S. Department of Interior Priorities***

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.

At the same time, home electricity costs have increased nearly 10% in the past year. 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 are available today to address these challenges. These are the energy resources available to meet growing energy demand, lower energy costs, and improve reliability through demand- and supply-side technologies, especially in the next five to ten years. As such, streamlining permitting processes on federal lands and ensuring certainty for energy projects in construction is critical. Federal permitting delays have held up 11 GW of new U.S. energy deployment in the last year alone – and the resulting uncertainty could increase project development costs by up to 10%.



Congress should continue to fund needed technical assistance and permitting programs and staff at the Interior Department to ensure the United States retains its competitive edge in deploying the innovative and reliable energy technologies needed for energy security.

### ***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Priorities***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) serves an essential role in implementing critical air and water quality regulations, supporting technical assistance, data collection and dissemination, and public private partnerships that improve the lives of Americans. These programs are needed now more than ever, as nearly half of Americans live with unhealthy levels of air pollution.<sup>4</sup> Extreme heat, drought, and wildfires are contributing to worsening levels of air pollution across much of the United States, exposing a growing proportion of the population to ozone and particle pollution that put their health at risk.

The implementation of energy efficiency solutions and a broad portfolio of energy technologies can reduce air and water pollution. As a business group working in communities all over the country, BCSE has seen firsthand how EPA programs help to speed the adoption of modern energy solutions 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 by private sector or non-governmental organizations with the same credibility.

Congress should continue to fund EPA's data collection, technical assistance and public private partnership programs to identify opportunities for more cost-effective implementation of environmental regulations and to provide predictability for businesses navigating environmental impacts.

### ***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](#). 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:jcumings@bcse.org) regarding your availability to meet.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson  
*President, Business Council for Sustainable Energy*