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Clean Energy Industries Call for Strong U.S. Leadership in Expansion of Global Clean Energy Markets

Washington, DC – October 7, 2009: At a Congressional hearing held today by the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection on “Growing U.S. Trade in Green Technology,” BCSE President Lisa Jacobson testified on the Council’s views on initiatives to expand U.S. clean energy technology exports that will support U.S. manufacturing and domestic job creation.

Chairman Bobby Rush (D-IL) opened the hearing by encouraging his colleagues in Congress to help “significantly increase our exports, help deploy clean technologies to developing countries and to assist them in addressing climate change, spur economic growth and create job opportunities for all American workers.” In his remarks, the Chairman also stressed that “The current global movement toward a green economy is an opportunity we must not miss and will not miss.”

“Given the global nature of clean energy markets – especially for solar, wind and efficiency products and components – the U.S. has the opportunity to embark on an aggressive and sustained strategy to expand domestic manufacturing and U.S. exports in these sectors,” commented Lisa Jacobson.

On behalf of Business Council for Sustainable Energy, an industry coalition of energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas businesses and trade associations in the United States, Lisa Jacobson highlighted six potential areas for Congress and the United States to focus on to achieve the goal of expanding U.S. clean technology exports:

1. Establishment of strong domestic markets will build the foundation for manufacturing and exports.
2. Free and fair trade policy that includes liberalization of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers to clean energy products and services.
3. Continued protection of intellectual property rights of firms that invest and offer innovations to the marketplace.
4. Flexible and innovative government financing to support U.S. firms abroad and to support capacity-building and the regulatory and institutional frameworks required to open new markets to clean energy products and services.
5. Expansion of clean energy technology export promotion programs.
6. Global agreements on climate change and the establishment of a global price on carbon.

A full copy of the Lisa Jacobson’s testimony is available on the BCSE website at <http://www.bcse.org>.

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The Council is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing the energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas industries. These industries comprise a suite of currently available technology options that can strengthen domestic energy security, create new high-quality jobs and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. For more information about the Council please visit our website at www.bcse.org.