The Business Council for Sustainable Energy

October 1, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy respectfully but strongly encourages Congress to enact legislation to extend the investment tax credits, production tax credits, and clean renewable energy bonds (CREBs), for renewable energy and energy efficiency before it adjourns for the November elections.

Failure to enact legislation to extend these critical tax incentives will further harm the already threatened U.S. economy. Without an extension of the expiring tax incentives clean energy industries anticipate the need to layoff thousands of employees as the result of large biomass, geothermal, solar and wind utility-scale generation facilities being cancelled. Projects in clean energy sectors such as hydroelectric power will be halted, causing a slowdown in the industry's consulting and manufacturing jobs.

Aside from adding to the economic downturn, failure to extend the tax credits will add to U.S. reliance on energy imports and lead to increases in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Tax incentives for energy efficiency will expire including incentives for consumers and building owners who install energy-efficient products, builders of energy-efficient new homes and commercial buildings, and manufacturers of certain energy-efficient appliances. Energy efficient projects, such as combined heat and power, may not be installed.

As Congress grapples with legislation to bail out Wall Street, the Council encourages you to consider 'Main Street.' We encourage you to enact the tax extensions to help consumers facing a lagging economy and growing energy costs and to provide the nascent clean energy industry with the stimulus it needs to create new jobs and help to build a new 'green' economy.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson
Executive Director

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is a broad-based business organization representing the energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas industries. The Council is comprised of over 50 members, including clean energy companies, utilities, retailers, energy end-users and trade associations. Council members represent industry solutions such as advanced batteries, biomass, biogas, combined heat and power, fuel cells, geothermal power, hydropower (including new waterpower resources such as ocean, tidal and in-stream hydrokinetic), recycled energy, solar power, wind energy, and supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency. Please see www.bcse.org for more information.

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