Question 6. Are there policies that should be considered to complement a CES?
Submitter’s Name/Affiliation: Business Council for Sustainable Energy

- *What are the specific challenges facing individual technologies such as nuclear, natural gas, CCS, on- and offshore wind, solar, efficiency, biomass, and others?*

The clean energy sectors that the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) represents each face distinct market barriers to increased deployment. However, one barrier to deployment that is common among many of the industries in the Council’s diverse coalition is the need for stable and predictable market demand.

In this context, an objective of a federal Clean Energy Standard (CES) should be to provide a predictable, long-term energy policy for the nation. This is essential to attract private sector investment and to continue to spur technology innovation in clean energy sectors. Further, stable, long-term demand for clean energy technologies and resources is needed for US manufacturing and the creation of domestic manufacturing jobs. The absence of a US federal clean energy policy is keeping private capital on the sidelines, or sending it to foreign markets. Continued uncertainty in US clean energy markets denies American consumers jobs and communities economic development revenue.
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- Are there specific supporting policy options that should be considered for coal, nuclear, natural gas, renewable energy, and efficiency?

Depending on its design, a federal Clean Energy Standard (CES) could be a significant policy driver for increased clean energy technology deployment. However, there are other federal policies and incentives that are needed to scale-up investment and the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies.

Clean energy industries seek a level playing field to compete and stable market conditions over time to attract investment. While specific policy needs are distinct for each industry segment, clean energy industries seek a range of tools to increase deployment such as financial incentives through tax credits, codes and standards, and efforts to streamline permitting and siting processes, among others. As such, the Council urges Congress to consider clean energy tax and energy policies as it considers a federal CES. In addition, a federal CES does not replace the need for regulatory certainty derived from congressional action on a federal greenhouse gas emissions policy.