



May 13, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146A the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen Mikulski and Feinstein and Ranking Members Shelby and Alexander:

In this year's economic and budget environment it is clear that Congress will be forced to make difficult choices in appropriating federal dollars. In light of this, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) offers some areas for consideration during the FY2014 budget cycle in order to maximize the value to American taxpayers and spur economic recovery.

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power and commercial end-users. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. The coalition's diverse business membership is united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future for America.

As evidenced in the report *Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook*, which was recently released by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, affordable, homegrown and clean energy sources are powering the U.S. economy with jobs and investment, and are promoting the security and diversity of our energy supply. Materials regarding the *Factbook* are attached for your reference. For a complete copy of the *Factbook*, please visit the Council's website at www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook.html. BCSE encourages Congress to continue to support research, development and deployment of these technologies to foster market competition here and abroad and to ensure that the United States becomes the world leader in clean energy technology.

The Council believes that continued funding for programs under the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is in the best interest of American taxpayers and supports a well-reasoned national energy strategy that improves our economic conditions at home and strengthens America's competitiveness in the global marketplace. The Council encourages your committees to maintain stable and consistent funding in the following areas:

- Congress should continue to support funding of energy efficiency, including better building technologies, building codes and standards, industrial technologies, vehicles, and advanced manufacturing, in order to drive economic growth, promote the competitiveness of U.S. industries, and save consumers money. Congress should

also strive to save taxpayers money by providing funding for the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) to improve efficiency in federal buildings.

- Congress should support net zero energy building RD&D that optimizes and combines the best high-value energy efficiency and on-site renewable and distributed energy applications in order to lower costs, emissions, and water use, and to compensate for deteriorating electric grid reliability and power quality. Congress should also support smart grid software and hardware RD&D as well as modular, inter-operable renewable and distributed energy (and hybrid systems) for electric grid interface as well as to harden critical infrastructure.
- Unlocking the vast hydropower potential of our rivers, oceans, tides and conduits requires funding the research and development initiatives that make innovative ideas a reality. The Department of Energy's Water Power Program is an important source of support for the researchers, scientists and developers working to grow hydropower's contribution to our country's clean energy resources. Continued investment in this program across all technologies is crucial to ensuring that the nation is on a path to reduce carbon emissions.
- Maintaining a commitment to fund the SunShot Initiative is a necessity to meet its goal of making solar energy cost-competitive with other sources of electricity by 2020. The SunShot Initiative focuses on cost reductions in all parts of the value chain, from materials research and manufacturing processes to permitting times and installation best practices and has helped the industry have its best year ever in 2012 while reducing the installed cost of solar by 20 percent.
- Continued investments in wind energy research and development are delivering value for taxpayers by fostering the development of a domestic energy source that strengthens our national security, provides rural economic development, spurs new high-tech jobs, and protects the environment. For these reasons we urge Congress to continue funding wind energy research and development through the DOE Wind Energy Program.
- Considering the growing use of natural gas in our energy economy the Department of Energy can play a substantial role in supporting research that will ensure natural gas is used, wisely, safely and efficiently. Therefore, the Council supports funding to be directed towards research and development for natural gas technology development and improvement.
- Fuel cell and hydrogen technologies produce jobs in domestic and export markets and promote energy independence and environmental stewardship. The Council encourages Congress to continue to support the fuel cell and hydrogen program managed by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Office of Fossil Energy to build upon the substantial progress made by these programs in cost reduction. The Council also encourages Congress to fully provide funding for the successful public-private partnerships to continue the industry's transition to market. Given the substantial cuts to these programs in recent years, the Council supports restoring funding for this program to historic high levels. In particular, the Council supports funding deployment of hydrogen fueling infrastructure and fuel cell electric vehicles, especially given that hydrogen is a highly efficient and zero-emission use of natural gas in the transportation sector. The Council also supports market transformation for stationary and backup power, material handling, refrigerated trucks, and auxiliary power units.

In addition to funding the above programs within the office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy B CSE also encourages Congress to adequately fund the activities of the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Since its creation in 1974 - in response to the Arab Oil Embargo - EIA has served to collect, analyze, and disseminate independent and impartial energy information to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy

and its interaction with the economy and the environment. Continued funding to support this important work is critical if EIA is to provide the American Public and policy makers with this vital information.

The Council looks forward to continuing its work with you and members of the Appropriations Committee in the coming weeks and months as you strive to get the most value out of limited federal dollars. We request the opportunity to meet with your staff to further discuss the Council's position and support for these critical energy programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Jacobson".

Lisa Jacobson, President

Attachments (3)

CC: Members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development