



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2409 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Johnson, Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
2468 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Johnson:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) I am writing to express concerns about the authorization levels for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and other critical DOE programs as contained in the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, HR 1806. In its current form, the legislation, which is scheduled for markup by the full Science Committee this week, would make substantial cuts to research and development at the Office of EERE.

BCSE 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.

Over the years, EERE programs have helped to diversify our nation's energy portfolio, have led to job creation in new and emerging energy technologies, and are helping to make the United States energy supply more secure, reliable, and clean. A copy of BCSE's recent testimony to the House Science Committee regarding our support for EERE programs can be found [here](#). BCSE recognizes that under the tight budget constraints Congress will need to carefully scrutinize each and every dollar. Without stable and consistent funding, however, many of these important programs, and the value they create for the U.S. taxpayer, will be lost. Therefore, BCSE requests that funding authorization for EERE programs remain at least at current levels and that Congress reject the steep cuts outlined in HR 1806.

The 2015 edition of the BCSE-Bloomberg New Energy Finance [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) demonstrates the way in which 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.¹ 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.

¹ For a complete copy of the 2015 edition of *the Sustainable Energy in America Factbook*, please visit the Council's website at www.bcse.org/sustainableenergyfactbook.html.

The Council wishes to work with members of the Science Committee 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 black ink that reads "Lisa Jacobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Jacobson, President

CC: Members of the House Science Committee