



June 20, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) appreciates your efforts to craft energy legislation and we look forward to working with you to finalize legislation this year with meaningful provisions for clean energy. We encourage you to go to conference and to begin with, and build upon, the foundation of the bipartisan provisions that have been negotiated over the past months and years.

Today's energy mix in the United States is radically different from that of a generation ago. The 2016 edition of the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) documents this shift and demonstrates how energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas are contributing to the country's move towards cleaner energy production and more efficient energy usage. Clean energy technologies, such as natural gas, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, are essential to U.S. environmental objectives, energy policy goals, and to U.S. economic growth.

Stable and balanced policies and infrastructure are critical for continued growth in the power generation and industrial sectors. Policies must be balanced in order to optimize our energy mix and flexible compliance alternatives. These policies may include federal land management, long-term contracting, and transmission planning among others.

There are a number of provisions in the energy legislation of particular interest to clean energy industries. For example, the Council is pleased to see provisions aimed at improving infrastructure and streamlining approval processes for clean energy projects, such as the hydropower licensing improvement. At a time when we need affordable, reliable, and clean energy, the United States needs an updated, more efficient regulatory process and the hydropower provisions in the legislation will move us in the right direction. We look forward to working together with conferees to merge the House and Senate bills in this area.

We are also pleased that both the House and Senate bills include energy efficiency measures. We look forward to working with conferees to improve these provisions throughout the conference process, including preserving the Senate-passed Sensible Accounting to Value Energy Act, or SAVE Act. The SAVE Act would bring transparency, accuracy, and security to the home appraisal and mortgage underwriting processes, and help finance energy efficient homes and retrofits. We are also pleased the legislation includes provisions to increase Federal energy efficiency through the use of Energy Savings Performance Contracts, which will create vitally needed jobs in local markets.

Additionally, BCSE supports provisions which would require the Department of Energy to establish a federal Smart Building Program to implement intelligent building technology and demonstrate the costs and benefits of smart buildings. The legislation also contains provisions to demonstrate innovative policies and approaches that will accelerate the transition to smart buildings in the public, institutional, and commercial building sectors.

BCSE encourages your consideration of these pieces of the legislation and believes that enactment of meaningful clean energy provisions this year would provide an incremental step to continue and expand federal energy policy as we shift toward a modernized grid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Jacobson".

Lisa Jacobson, President

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Chair, House Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Raul Grijalvi, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee