



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2016

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**BCSE Praises Minnesota's Commitment to the Accord for a New Energy Future
*Continued Leadership on Clean Energy Will Bring Jobs and Economic Benefit to State***

Washington, DC - The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) released the following statement from BCSE President Lisa Jacobson regarding Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton joining 16 other governors in signing the *Governors Accord for a New Energy Future*, a joint commitment announced yesterday to take action to promote clean energy, clean transportation choices, modernize energy infrastructure, and plan for a new energy future:

"The Council commends Governor Dayton and this bipartisan group of governors for coming together to state their commitment towards diversifying the clean energy economy. The Accord recognizes that by deploying cleaner and more efficient energy solutions, we can make our national economy more productive and resilient.

"The nation's electricity sector is undergoing a sweeping transition that is providing consumers with far more choices in the way they buy and consume energy. Through a combination of new technologies, changing consumer behavior and smart public policies, these choices provide more options for affordable and reliable energy and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, with Minnesota's policy leadership and commitment to continue planning for the Clean Power Plan despite the recent stay by the Supreme Court, the state is well-prepared to meet its carbon-reduction goals.

"America is at an energy crossroads that Minnesota helped pioneer through its decade-long commitment to a number of innovative clean energy policies. For example, a [study](#) by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) found that Minnesota is ahead of meeting its goal of obtaining 25% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025 – largely due to the growth of wind and biofuels. In addition, Minnesota saw explosive growth in its solar capacity, up from 4 megawatts to 16 megawatts in just two years. Natural gas is also a growing piece of the Minnesota clean energy story with its use up about 16% since 2008.

"Minnesota also ranks in the top ten in the nation when it comes to consuming energy more efficiently. This comes from a combination of state and utility incentives for efficiency investments, combined with a mix of state and local building codes.

"These energy solutions are at the forefront of the clean energy transformation that is occurring around the US and is described in detail in the recently released [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) produced in partnership by BCSE and BNEF.

"The Council is pleased to see so many state governors showcasing their commitment to working together

to promote clean energy technologies and policies in order to create a stronger energy future for their individual states and the nation.”

The bipartisan group of 17 governors – Gov. Sandoval (R-NV), Gov. Baker (R-MA), Gov. Branstad (R-IA), Gov. Snyder (R-MI), Gov. Malloy (D-CT), Gov. Markell (D-DE), Gov. Ige (D-HI), Gov. Dayton (D-MN), Gov. Hassan (D-NH), Gov. Cuomo (D-NY), Gov. Brown (D-OR), Gov. Wolf (D-PA), Gov. Raimondo (D-RI), Gov. Shumlin (D-VT) and Gov. McAuliffe (D-VA) – signed the *Governors Accord for a New Energy Future* which is intended to provide these participating governors with a platform through which their states will collaborate and leverage partnerships in energy planning and policymaking.

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The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (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. Established in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. For more information on the Council, please visit: www.bcse.org and download [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) 2016 edition for the latest industry information.