



August 23, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations and Related Programs
290 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations and Related Programs; and
Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Graham, and Ranking Member Leahy:

I am writing to convey the Business Council for Sustainable Energy's (BCSE) support for the appropriation of \$10 million in the FY2018 State and Foreign Operations Bill towards U.S. contributions to international programs, multi-lateral funds and institutions, specifically the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The BCSE would also like to express its continued support for the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power utilities, project developers, commercial end users and service providers. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. These industries together support over 3 million jobs spread across every state and congressional district in the United States and are united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future in America.

As an accredited business observer to the UNFCCC for over twenty years, the Council can attest to the role this inter-governmental process has played in shaping markets in both developing and developed countries for existing clean energy technologies. The IPCC's work also provides critical scientific assessment that assists both countries and companies alike in their planning. Preserving the U.S. financial contributions to these international programs and institutions not only protects the opportunity for U.S. governmental leadership but also protects and promotes the business interests of American companies.

These business interests include but are not limited to the defense of intellectual property rights, the creation of an open and transparent system of accounting, the ability to define and use market-based mechanisms and the ability to access financial mechanisms to fund projects overseas.

We look forward to meeting with your staff to further discuss the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President