



June 14, 2017

Sen. Thad Cochran, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Tom Udall, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Murkowski and Ranking Members Leahy and Udall:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to express support for federal investment in initiatives that help businesses manage environmental issues, foster transparency and best practices in emissions and water management, and recognize leadership in environmental stewardship and sustainability. These programs are included in the FY2018 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill.

This includes programs funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the Office of Air and Radiation and Enforcement Division related to air quality, international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, and water management, as well as the ENERGY STAR program.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors. It includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power, manufacturers, commercial end users and service providers in energy and environmental markets. Founded in 1992, the coalition's diverse business membership is united around the continued revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future in America.

As a business group working to advance clean energy policies over the last 25 years, BCSE has seen first-hand the importance of the federal role EPA fills in sharing information about new technologies and practices to help speed adoption and allow consumers to make more informed decisions.

The federal government's role in these efforts is critical to provide transparent, standardized and independent data and expertise that cannot be replicated by private sector or non-governmental organizations with the same credibility.

### **Maintaining America's Status as an Energy Leader**

Through regulatory and voluntary initiatives, EPA helps foster the US leadership role in clean energy and transportation technologies globally. Many EPA programs, including the CHP Partnership, Green Power Partnership, Natural Gas Star and others, embody longstanding public-private endeavors that benefit American businesses and help them continue to compete on a global scale. For example, the Natural Gas Star program brings companies together to voluntarily evaluate emissions, work to reduce them, and gather data that adds transparency and highlights the market's eagerness to adopt energy saving measures. EPA initiatives provide market transparency, encourage voluntary action, and identify companies that are leaders in businesses and in environmental protection. Additionally, EPA's laboratories lead the

world in capabilities that make the United States preeminent in research and analysis which supports private sector capabilities to enhance economic growth and emissions reductions simultaneously.

### **EPA Programs Provide Value to U.S. Taxpayers**

Federal investments in programs implemented by the EPA have multiple benefits including reducing air pollution, saving consumers money, and achieving energy independence and security. For example, EPA's vehicle emissions rules will save consumers \$1.7 trillion at the pump by 2025. Additionally, through voluntary energy and climate programs, EPA's partners are saving consumers and businesses of about \$21 billion.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, clean energy supported over 3 million jobs in the United States in 2016, due in part to EPA and other government programs that encourage the use of clean energy and energy efficiency.<sup>2</sup>

Programs like ENERGYSTAR have proven track records success and are extremely cost-effective. For every incremental dollar Americans invested in energy efficiency under ENERGYSTAR, they reduced their energy bills by an average of \$4.50. In 2015 alone, American consumers and businesses saved over \$34 billion with the help of ENERGY STAR.<sup>3</sup> Through brand recognition, information and positive publicity, the ENERGY STAR program has provided the catalyst for many consumers, homeowners, businesses, and state and local governments to invest in energy efficiency.

Another example is EPA's WaterSense Program, which partners with manufacturers, retailers and distributors, and utilities to bring WaterSense labeled products to the marketplace and make it easy to purchase high-performing, water-efficient products. WaterSense also partners with professional certifying organizations to promote water-efficient landscape irrigation practices. This program has proven benefits for consumers, and for the future of our water supply. Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense has helped consumers save a cumulative 1.5 trillion gallons of water and more than \$32.6 billion in water and energy bills.<sup>4</sup>

### **EPA Programs Provide Critical Support to States, Tribes, and Localities**

Many state, local, and tribal efforts to improve the environment are dependent on the information and resourced provided by federal programs. The EPA provides valuable technical assistance, analytical tools, and outreach support to state, local, and tribal governments that enable the states to administer robust clean energy and energy efficiency programs. Investing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and environmental policies and programs is an important way for state and local governments to improve air quality and people's health, and save money. For example, EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program offers expertise about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change policies and programs to interested state, local, and tribal governments. By providing these resources, EPA removes barriers that would otherwise prohibit action at the local level due to resource constraints or lack of information on best practices.

### **The Federal Role for Air Quality and Climate Change Programs**

EPA can address barriers to the adoption of emissions-reducing technologies – such as a lack of reliable information, inconsistent regulatory environments, and workforce training gaps – through activities that include providing objective

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<sup>1</sup> EPA Website, "What EPA is Doing About Climate Change" available at:

<https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/climatechange/what-epa-doing-about-climate-change.html>.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 US Energy and Employment Report, Department of Energy, available at: <https://energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report>

<sup>3</sup> Energy Star Overview of 2015 Accomplishments, available at:

[https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.downloadfile&file=F84267790DF5B5F22EB9D715BC7BEC4F2E6F21C078AD0D8DB716916D20CB04C3778CC40ABE8B9DBF508BE77DAD9A753D5EAA2CFC510D5530702AC176F23ACA67F51939211384A8256F097182F6234B80CC51C3BB639D51552DAB56D4A545B4EC0A1834599E2CC67FED80CAC1E997504293B84EC41C9D129FBE039474F3C98A8321B1284EE9213E9B9B52BC5BDE81FBE6&app\\_code=publications&env\\_name=other](https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.downloadfile&file=F84267790DF5B5F22EB9D715BC7BEC4F2E6F21C078AD0D8DB716916D20CB04C3778CC40ABE8B9DBF508BE77DAD9A753D5EAA2CFC510D5530702AC176F23ACA67F51939211384A8256F097182F6234B80CC51C3BB639D51552DAB56D4A545B4EC0A1834599E2CC67FED80CAC1E997504293B84EC41C9D129FBE039474F3C98A8321B1284EE9213E9B9B52BC5BDE81FBE6&app_code=publications&env_name=other)

<sup>4</sup> WaterSense Accomplishments and History, available at: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/accomplishments-and-history>

information, creating networks between the public and private sector and providing technical assistance. These efforts can help energy consumers in all sectors. Through its programs on renewable energy, natural gas, combined heat and power and energy efficiency, EPA encourages the use of clean, efficient, and market-ready technologies that can lower costs and improve resiliency in addition to lowering emissions.

EPA also has an important role to play as an international leader in climate science and emission reduction frameworks. EPA is engaged in a variety of international activities to advance climate change science, monitor our environment, and promote activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. EPA establishes partnerships, provides leadership, and shares technical expertise to support these activities.

The Council wishes to work with members of the Appropriations Committee to maximize the value of limited federal dollars and we request the opportunity to meet with your staff to further discuss the Council's position and support for EPA programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Jacobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Jacobson  
President, Business Council for Sustainable Energy