



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Laura Tierney  
Email: [ltierney@bcse.org](mailto:ltierney@bcse.org)  
Office: 202.785.0507

**Clean Energy Businesses Urge Funding for Federal Programs Which Support Job Creation and Grid Reliability**

Washington, DC – The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) released a letter today to urge Congress to reach an agreement to increase the Fiscal Year 2018 budget caps to ensure that non-defense programs receive the appropriate funding levels to ensure a safe, secure, reliable and diverse energy system. The Budget Control Act of 2011 set caps on discretionary spending through 2021 and those caps have been modified in subsequent years. However, without further action by Congress, the caps will be reduced in Fiscal Year 2018 through an enforcement mechanism known as “sequestration.”

Business Council for Sustainable Energy President Lisa Jacobson said:

“If the caps are left unchanged, billions of dollars will be sequestered from non-defense programs, including critical energy programs, at the Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of State. We know this has been a challenging year for the budget, but without an increase in the caps and adequate funding, the security, reliability, and diversity of our nation’s energy supply will be at risk.

“As Congress moves forward with appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2018, the Council requests that you consider the value that energy programs at the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency and State Department, provide to the reliability and security of the nation’s energy system, as well as to consumers and businesses.”

The letter brings attention to clean energy research, development, deployment, and commercialization activities funded through the Department of Energy that have helped lower costs for consumers and have made the United States one of the most attractive markets in the world for companies whose operations entail significant energy-related costs. BCSE also highlighted the role of the Department of State in shaping markets in both developing and developed countries for existing clean energy technologies, as well as the role of the Environmental Protection Agency in providing technical assistance and information about new technologies and practices to help speed adoption and allow consumers to make more informed decisions.

To see the full letter, go [here](#).

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*BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes investor-owned utilities, public power, independent power producers, project developers, equipment manufacturers, and environmental and energy market service providers. 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](http://www.bcse.org) and download [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) 2017 edition for the latest industry information.*