



June 20, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Graham, and Ranking Member Leahy:

As the full Appropriations Committee holds its markup this week, I am writing to convey the Business Council for Sustainable Energy's (BCSE) support for the continued funding of international climate change and clean energy programs in the FY 2019 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. This includes funding for U.S. commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and clean energy and adaptation programs under Bilateral Economic Assistance. The continued support of these programs will help ensure that American companies remain competitive in the global marketplace for clean energy technology solutions and services.

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-five 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 and in providing critical scientific assessment that assists both countries and companies alike in their planning.

Preserving U.S. financial contributions to these international programs and institutions, including bi-lateral clean energy programs, may increase the chance that countries deploy high quality American technologies. At the same time making these financial contributions will protect and promote the business interests of American companies - including 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, the ability to access financial mechanisms to fund projects overseas, and the ability to meet corporate sustainability goals. The U.S. government needs to provide leadership to the international community to ensure these outcomes.

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

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations