

April 4, 2018

Senator Thad Cochran, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20150

Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Alexander and Ranking Members Leahy and Feinstein:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) and Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN), thank you for your strong support for federal clean energy programs at the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies in P.L. 115-141, the Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2018.

The BCSE is a coalition of leading trade associations and companies in the energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy sectors. The CEBN is an independent initiative of the BCSE focusing on small- and medium-size businesses providing clean energy technologies and services. Together, we represent a broad range of the clean energy economy, from Fortune 200 companies to small businesses working in all 50 states and over 370 Congressional districts.

Clean energy companies across America are generating new economic opportunities and jobs, fostering innovation, lowering consumers' energy bills, improving energy reliability, and creating healthier communities. Federal energy programs complement these private-sector efforts by creating opportunities for innovation, providing critical technical assistance to customers and providers, and addressing barriers to deployment—paving the way for diverse energy technologies to rise and compete.

Across every energy sector in the U.S., federal investments have historically helped pave the way for technology improvements and cost declines. The [2018 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) produced by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy and Bloomberg New Energy Finance documents recent trends in clean energy made possible in part by government investment:

- Natural gas and renewable energy accounted for half of electricity generation in the U.S. in 2017.
- Consumers devoted a smaller share of their spending in 2017 towards electricity than at any time ever recorded, and the total share of household expenses dedicated to energy costs also hovered near an all-time low.

- Clean energy in the U.S. attracted \$57 billion in investment in 2017.
- The renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas sectors employed approximately 3 million Americans in 2016.

A new companion project by the Clean Energy Business Network, [\*Faces Behind the Facts\*](#), tells the stories of business leaders working across these industries, and features examples of how federal programs have helped launch successful business ventures and provide solutions that work for American consumers and taxpayers. Case studies of a handful of these leaders are attached.

The BCSE and CEBN appreciate your efforts to expand a diverse array of technologies and accelerate cost declines, ensuring continued job growth in the energy sector and a clean, resilient, and cost-competitive energy system. We look forward to working with you throughout the FY 2019 appropriations process to ensure the momentum continues and to maximize the value of every limited federal dollar. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your staff to discuss our priorities.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson, President  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy



Lynn Abramson, President  
Clean Energy Business Network

CC: Members of House Appropriations Committee