



April 18, 2019

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 201515

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 201515

The Honorable Betty McCollum, Chair
Subcommittee on Interior & Environment
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior & Environment
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Lowey and McCollum and Ranking Members Granger and Joyce:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), I am writing to express support for Fiscal Year 2020 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.

As Congress moves forward with appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2020, the Council urges Congress to continue robust funding for the EPA offices of Air and Radiation, Enforcement Division, and Transportation and Air Quality related to international climate change programs, climate change research and partnership programs, the Renewable Fuel Standard, water management, and 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 27 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**, **Methane Challenge**, **AgStar**, **Center for Corporate Climate Leadership**, **SmartWay Transport Partnership**, 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 conduct projects to reduce methane emissions and share lessons learned on innovative, cost-effective best practices. The new Methane Challenge program (within Natural Gas STAR) provides a credible platform for partner companies to transparently report the voluntary methane reduction measures they are implementing company-wide and to be publicly recognized as leaders in methane reduction. Both programs help companies share technology innovations that modernize and improve the efficiency of the country's energy delivery system.

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. 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.¹

Programs like **ENERGYSTAR** have proven track records of success and are extremely cost-effective. 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. The Council opposes moving to a fee-based funding model for ENERGYSTAR, which would erode the integrity and effectiveness of the program.

Under the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, EPA has run the **Renewable Fuel Standard**, which has enabled the development of the biomass and biogas industry to help meet lower carbon energy needs. The Council encourages EPA to fund the registration of projects producing RINs from biogas derived fuels, including renewable electricity. This pathway would open up the potential for electricity derived from biogas, renewable biomass and solid forms of biomass used as transportation fuel and could significantly contribute to the program.

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 resources 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 to improve people's health, and to 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 information, creating networks between the public and private sector and providing technical assistance. These efforts

¹ 2018 US Energy and Employment Report, available at:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a98cf80ec4eb7c5cd928c61/t/5c7f3708fa0d6036d7120d8f/1551849054549/USEER+2019+US+Energy+Employment+Report.pdf>

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 resilience 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Jacobson".

Lisa Jacobson, President

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations
Attachment