



March 18, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
304 Russell SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
437 Russell SOB  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) applauds Congress for its work last year to pass robust funding in the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2020 for Department of Energy (DOE) clean energy programs. We recognize the current budget situation may be different in FY2021; however, we urge Congress to continue to adequately fund DOE clean energy programs so that moving forward the U.S. can leverage business investment in energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy to accelerate deployment and emissions reductions in all sectors of the economy.

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.

BCSE is pleased to have an independent small- and medium-size businesses initiative under its banner, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN). Together, BCSE and CEBN represent a broad range of the clean energy economy, from Fortune 200 companies to small businesses working in all 50 states and over 350 Congressional districts. On a national basis, the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors support over 3.2 million U.S. jobs.

As Congress moves forward with appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2021, we urge you to do the following:

1. Continue robust funding for the DOE offices of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Fossil Energy (FE), Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (EDER), Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and other essential DOE clean energy programs. A chart containing industry funding requests for the renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas sectors can be found [here](#) for your reference.
2. Provide clear direction to DOE in legislative language or report language regarding congressional intent.

The growth and impact of clean energy technologies over the past decade demonstrate the value of federal investment made in DOE clean energy programs. The [2020 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) recently released by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy and BloombergNEF shows that energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable

energy drove a decade of U.S. energy transformation which was an era of economic growth, falling greenhouse gas emissions, and falling energy costs for consumers. A complementary report from CEBN entitled [\*Faces Behind the Facts\*](#), highlights some of the small to medium-sized clean energy entrepreneurs who are helping to drive this transformation.

- Clean energy is now driving the U.S. energy sector. Sustainable energy meets and exceeds America's needs in terms of maintaining grid reliability and safety, while boosting economic growth and reducing environmental impacts.
- Today the cheapest energy is also the cleanest. Retail electricity costs fell, while consumers have the same services and, in some cases, more options. Consumers are now spending 22% less on energy, on average, compared to the start of the decade.
- Energy efficiency choices have proliferated, with federal programs helping high-efficiency appliances reach mass markets and state codes bolstering building efficiency.
- The economy grew every year in the past decade and energy use fell in five of the ten years. U.S. energy productivity (GDP/energy consumption) improved 18% between 2010 and 2019, benefiting businesses and households.
- Natural gas became the primary source of U.S. power generation and shifted the scales in the global market.
- Between 2010 and 2019 domestic natural gas production jumped 50%, and natural gas went from providing 24% of the nation's electricity to 38%. The U.S. increased its export capacity to exceed its import capacity, building stronger trade relationships around the world. In 2019, the U.S. exported more gas than it imported.
- The number of residential natural gas customers grew by 8% in the last decade while overall residential consumption of gas rose by 5% due to energy efficiency.
- Renewable energy became the cheapest new generation source in many U.S. power markets. The U.S. has over 2 times more renewable power generating capacity today than a decade ago. Solar capacity in 2019 was 80 times greater than what it was at the end of 2009.

BCSE urges you to enact Energy and Water Appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2021 that will continue to fund the DOE clean energy programs so the U.S. can accelerate deployment of energy efficiency, natural gas, and renewable energy and reduce emissions in all sectors of the economy.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson, President