



April 3, 2020

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

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, Vice-Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations and  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on State Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Graham, and Vice-Chairman and Ranking Member Leahy:

I am writing to convey the Business Council for Sustainable Energy's (BCSE) support for the funding of international clean energy programs and multi-lateral institutions in the FY2021 State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Appropriations Bill. The coronavirus pandemic underscores the value of U.S. international leadership and the need for global cooperation and coordination to build resilient economies to endure future health and environmental crises. Maintaining, if not increasing, U.S. contributions to critical climate and energy programs and institutions is an important part of this leadership.

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 3.2 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.

In the FY2021 SFOPS Appropriations bill, the Council supports the inclusion of

- \$10 million for U.S. commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- \$500 million for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and support of continued U.S. engagement at the GCF Board
- \$194 million for renewable energy programs, \$192 million for adaptation programs, as part of the Bilateral Economic Assistance accounts

The continued support of these programs will not only assist developing countries to build climate-resilient

economies but will help ensure that American companies remain competitive in the global marketplace for clean energy technology solutions and services. These programs address policy and market issues that enable the deployment of the full suite of clean energy generation tools, including energy infrastructure modernization, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

As an accredited business observer to the UNFCCC for twenty-eight 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, will increase the chance that countries deploy high quality American technologies. 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.

BCSE members and BCSE staff continue to work on a remote, work-from-home basis during the COVID-19 crisis, but we are available to meet with your staff via teleconference to discuss the Council's views. Please contact Ruth McCormick at [rmccormick@bcse.org](mailto:rmccormick@bcse.org) if you would like to arrange a conference call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Jacobson".

Lisa Jacobson, President