



July 18, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) thanks you for your leadership in addressing the economic and public health challenges of COVID-19. As Congress prepares to consider a Phase IV relief bill this summer, we urge you to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the economic and business conditions for clean energy industries and their workforce and to incorporate provisions in the legislation to provide needed relief to stabilize investment and bring people back to work.

BCSE is a coalition of companies and trade associations representing the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially available clean energy technologies, products and services. Its membership includes project developers, industrial manufacturers, equipment and technology providers, independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power companies, and energy and environmental service providers.

BCSE is pleased to have an independent initiative under its banner, the Clean Energy Business Network (CEBN). CEBN represents small- and medium-sized businesses providing clean energy technologies and services. Together, BCSE and CEBN represent a broad range of the clean energy economy, from Fortune 100 companies to small businesses working in all 50 states. These businesses have been significant growth industries over the past decade, providing over 3.4 million jobs across the country at the start of 2020, with about 70% of those jobs in small businesses.

Since the U.S. escalation of the pandemic in early March, over 500,000 clean energy jobs have been lost and the clean energy project and investment pipeline has been significantly interrupted. Project construction and permitting has been delayed, financing has been slowed, and supply chains have been disrupted. The scale and breadth of the economic impacts that clean energy industries are facing is wide and deep. The energy

efficiency sector continues to suffer from 360,000 job losses impacting a full 15 percent of its work force, while a total of 82,400 renewable electric power generation workers (14 percent of the sector’s workforce) remain unemployed due to the pandemic.<sup>1</sup> Given the diversity of products, services and business models in clean energy sectors, a range of policy solutions are being considered.

The types of federal solutions being contemplated involve support to states, localities, and tribes; adjustments to tax policy; regulatory changes; funding for research, development, and deployment (RD&D) initiatives, and workforce development among other proposals. The objectives are to provide market stability in this uncertain period and to spur investment and jobs for economic recovery when the time is right.

Please see the [testimony](#) BCSE provided to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource at its June 16, 2020 hearing, “Examining the impacts of COVID-19 on the Energy Industry.” The BCSE testimony calls out a number of areas where Congress can act immediately to provide relief to workers that have lost their jobs and stabilize market conditions to spur needed investment. As a diverse coalition, not all BCSE members endorse or take positions on these policies.

Of note, there are adjustments to current tax law that would provide market continuity and enable the tax incentives on the books to be utilized as Congress intended.

These include:

- Provide direct pay mechanisms for the investment tax credit (ITC) and production tax credit (PTC) to make the tax provisions refundable.
- Expand the eligibility and delay the phase-downs for clean energy tax measures.
  - This could impact biogas, energy storage, carbon capture utilization and storage, and sustainable transportation, in addition to PTC and ITC technologies.
- Strengthen and modernize energy efficiency tax incentives.

Further, BCSE members urge action on the [American Energy Innovation Act \(AEIA\)](#), S.2657, this year as a foundational set of policies with strong bipartisan support that will spur investment and create jobs.

BCSE members also recommend support to states, localities, and tribes to manage current cost shortfalls as well as to strategically invest in clean energy sectors and resilience. [Programs that support building retrofits and residential clean energy investment](#) are key as they help clean energy workers that have seen over 400,000 jobs lost since March. This can be accomplished through federal appropriations, grant programs and other financial mechanisms. An important goal with these expenditures is to leverage private sector investment as much as possible.

These are just a number of the proposals that clean energy sectors are considering in order to put people back to work and “build back better.” Please see the previously mentioned June 16 [BCSE testimony](#) before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for more information.

BCSE members would be pleased to meet with your staff via conference call or via an online meeting to further discuss the ideas of the Council’s coalition members. Please contact Ruth McCormick, Director, Federal

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<sup>1</sup> <https://e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Clean-Energy-Jobs-June-COVID-19-Memo-Final.pdf>

and State Affairs at [rmccormick@bcse.org](mailto:rmccormick@bcse.org) or by telephone at 202-557-4002, if you would like to arrange a follow-up conversation.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson, President  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy

Cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr., Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations