



January 22, 2010

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As 2010 begins, the nation remains focused on the need to address urgent economic challenges. This includes the immediate need to maintain and generate jobs while addressing energy security and global climate change. As you prepare to address the nation in the upcoming State of the Union address, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy strongly encourages you to provide a call to enact comprehensive energy and climate change legislation this year. Your continued leadership is needed to provide the roadmap for addressing these challenges simultaneously through market-based approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and policies that move us more rapidly to a clean energy economy, revitalize domestic manufacturing and create new high-quality jobs for Americans.

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing the suite of currently available energy technology options for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. As business leaders with extensive experience in renewable and low-carbon energy generation, clean energy technology, and greenhouse gas project development, Council members understand the important job and economic benefits that would result from enactment of well-designed, comprehensive national legislation.

Wind, solar, hydropower, biomass, geothermal, biogas, and other renewable energy options, combined with supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency and natural gas, are proven economic engines that will foster economic growth and create new high-quality jobs. Industry analyses and the government's own studies show that these existing clean energy technologies and resources can provide a significant percentage of the nation's energy needs while creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in all regions of the country. In addition, legislation that encourages energy-saving investments will create millions of jobs and save U.S. consumers billions on monthly energy bills, while new natural gas resources and the development of technological advances in natural gas extraction mitigate concerns about energy supply and costs.

The energy efficiency and clean energy investments begun in 2009 by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will bear fruit this year and long into the future. The ARRA has created opportunities and incentives for productive investments with positive economic payoffs and has helped to demonstrate that carbon reduction policies do not have to result in costly regulation.

We commend you and your Administration for these significant accomplishments. More work, however, remains to be done to take this country in a new direction, with significant greenhouse gas reductions and expanded use of clean energy sources and technologies.

These issues should be addressed through congressional action; however, in order for passage of legislation to be possible during the 111th Congress the nation needs your strong and continued leadership. A powerful commitment to energy and climate legislation in your State of the Union address will signal to those doubting the need for or the possibility of passing a bill this session that we can in fact succeed and can set the foundation for our nation's energy future.

White House leadership is needed now more than ever to enact domestic legislation and should be focused on identification of workable proposals and building coalitions. In the absence of action by Congress the states and regions are taking action on climate and energy issues, which has resulted in an inconsistent patchwork of regulation and adds significant costs to U.S. industries. Swift and clear action by Congress would provide businesses with certainty and consistency in the approach to climate change across the country.

A properly-structured, comprehensive approach would include carefully-planned caps on economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions and flexibility in the form of emissions trading and offsets to reduce the cost of compliance and to drive innovation and performance. It would also incorporate a suite of complementary energy policies, including a renewable electricity standard, an energy efficiency resource standard, building efficiency policies and incentives, tax credits, and other provisions that move nation on an immediate path to cost-effectively reduce emissions with a broad portfolio of existing clean energy technologies and resources – such as supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas.

The Council commends your commitment to a clean energy future and we look forward to working with you and Members of Congress to enact comprehensive energy and climate legislation in 2010.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson
President

About the Business Council for Sustainable Energy

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing a suite of currently available technology options for strengthening domestic energy security while also reducing emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. These technologies include: advanced batteries, biomass, biogas, fuel cells, geothermal, hydropower (including conventional and new waterpower resources such as ocean, tidal and in stream hydrokinetic), solar (including solar energy equipment such as solar hot water heating and solar light pipe technology), wind, natural gas, and supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency.

For more information about the Council, please visit us on the web at www.bcse.org