



March 31, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
304 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Committee
437 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Energy & Water
Development Subcommittee
455 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Energy
& Water Development Subcommittee
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

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

As members of the Clean Energy Business Network working to deploy clean and efficient energy technologies across the United States, we appreciate the support Congress provided in fiscal year 2020 to avoid cuts to critical Department of Energy (DOE) programs. We are writing to urge you to continue building upon last year's progress by providing robust support for federal clean energy programs in fiscal year 2020 (FY2021).

As Congress moves forward with appropriations legislation for FY2021, we urge you to maintain—and ideally build upon—FY2020 funding for critical Department of Energy (DOE) offices such as Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Fossil Energy, the Office of Science, the Loan Programs Office, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy. We also urge Congress to provide clear legislative direction to DOE regarding Congressional intent for the use of appropriated funds. Furthermore, we encourage the Appropriations Committee to include language directing federal agencies to consider ways to make their extramural research and development grants easier to navigate, more accessible, and more impactful for small businesses.

DOE's investment in early-stage and applied research spurs private-sector innovation and facilitates the testing and commercialization of many high-risk, high-reward energy technologies. DOE also provides critical technical assistance to help customers, energy providers, and states address barriers to deployment. Collectively, these investments pave the way for diverse energy technologies to rise and compete.

DOE has been a contributing partner behind many of the transformations and cost declines the United States has experienced over the past few decades across all energy sectors. Consumers, businesses, and taxpayers across America are enjoying the benefits of job creation, lower energy bills, greater reliability, increased domestic investment, and healthier communities.

The 2020 *Sustainable Energy in America Factbook* produced by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (CEBN's parent organization) and Bloomberg New Energy Finance documents the clean energy

made possible in part by government investment. Renewable energy, energy efficiency, and natural gas comprise the growth sectors of the U.S. energy economy, now supplying more than half our electricity, employing 3.4 million American workers, and pumping more than \$60 billion a year in private investment into our economy. Gross Domestic Product grew by a quarter over the past decade while total energy use expanded around 6.5%, meaning our economy is doing more with less energy.

Many of the case studies highlighted in CEBN's companion project—*Faces Behind the Facts*—showcase examples of how DOE programs have helped launch successful business ventures, promote economic growth, and provide solutions that work for American consumers and taxpayers.

We appreciate Congress' past support for DOE programs and urge you to stand beside our nation's entrepreneurs and businesses in building a clean, resilient, and cost-competitive energy system in FY2021.

Sincerely,

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