



April 27, 2022

Christopher Davis
Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Davis,

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), we congratulate you on your new position as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Energy. We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you to share our perspectives and offer our organizations as a resource.

BCSE and NASEO have worked over the past several decades with the U.S. Department of Energy in many areas, offering the experiences of states and the private sector to support U.S. energy planning and research, development, innovation, and deployment initiatives.

As you begin your tenure, the U.S. Department of Energy is advancing historic investments in the nation's energy infrastructure in support of states and communities, the U.S. economy, and the environment through implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Our private- and public-sector members worked on many of the Act's energy provisions and we are committed to the implementation of these once-in-a-generation investments in ways that bring value to taxpayers and achieve shared energy reliability, affordability, climate, and equity goals. We acknowledge the significant effort the Department is leading as it moves forward with distributing funds to existing programs as well as establishing new programs as directed by the Act.

At this critical time, we offer the following perspectives and look forward to the opportunity to discuss these with you in more detail.

First, we appreciate the challenge of tackling over 60 new programs and associated procurement actions in a coordinated manner. We encourage you to consider our organizations and our members as a platform to help communicate and plan for the use of these funds.

We also appreciate your taking important initial steps to advance the issuance of formula funding for Grid Resilience, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (with the U.S. Department of Transportation), the U.S. State Energy Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program. We encourage the Department to focus on issuing these formula funds so that states, working with clean energy private sector partners,

can build capacity and refine investment plans to pursue the many competitive infrastructure opportunities expected over the coming months.

Understanding the vital role that the private sector and states will play in responding to Requests for Information and project solicitations, we ask for the Department's partnership in conducting a virtual DOE-State-Private Sector IJIA Implementation workshop(s) that would help to inform state, local and private partners about pending opportunities and foster partnership formation, discussion, and pre-planning. The main objectives of the workshop would be to cultivate partnerships among state policymakers, clean energy businesses, and Department leadership around the central goal of successful IJIA implementation. NASEO and BCSE members are heavily invested in the success of the Department's infrastructure programs and believe that more frequent opportunities for coordination and communication across public-private and state-federal siloes will be integral in these efforts.

In addition, we would like to discuss several implementation issues that may help in delivering IJIA resources for excellent projects, including:

- The U.S. Treasury final rule regarding the use of American Rescue Plan state and local "revenue replacement" funds as non-federal match can significantly aid many underserved communities in taking advantage of the Department's funding opportunities. However, this process requires the Department's action in advance of these procurements to allow the use of these funds for IJIA non-federal matching purposes.
- We encourage the Department to consider devising a strategic Buy America phased-waiver process for key clean energy products, many of which currently are not manufactured at sufficient scale and volume domestically to meet the ambitious goals of IJIA, to create a predictable glide-path for U.S. manufacturers to scale-up production in cases where insufficient U.S. sources are currently available. In addition, we ask the Department to consider the impact of current solar tariffs on the price and availability of these products.

Finally, as we begin to see project awards and implementation, we offer our organizations' help in establishing a communications strategy that could be used by the Department, states, and private companies to convey IJIA success stories and impacts, founded in mutually-agreed metrics and data-driven storytelling. Such communication is critical both for the durability of the programs as well as future energy infrastructure and resilience investments.

Thank you for your consideration and we would like to request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these ideas in more detail.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jacobson
President
Business Council for Sustainable Energy



David Terry
Executive Director
National Association of State Energy Officials