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Statement of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy

House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

Hearing on a Framework for Evaluating Certain Expiring Tax Provisions

June 8, 2012

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy urges Congress to continue its long-standing support for a broad array of clean energy tax incentives to spur investment, create jobs and diversify our nation's energy portfolio to power the U.S. economy. While Members of Congress have expressed an interest in comprehensive tax reform, the Council believes that until tax reform is enacted that includes a place for clean energy provisions, Congress should continue the federal commitment to clean energy tax incentives by extending expiring, and expired measures.

The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power and commercial end-users. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. The coalition's diverse business membership is united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future for America.

BCSE underscores the critical role that clean energy tax incentives play in helping the United States achieve vital economic and energy security objectives. Tax incentives are an important part of our energy policy and have been as effective as any state or federal energy policy mechanism in helping to ensure an adequate, reliable, safe, clean supply of energy resources. Tax incentives can be effective, efficient tools to encourage private sector investment, reduce costs for consumers and industry, spur technological innovation and enhance the viability and deployment of a variety of clean energy options.

Smart federal policy has assisted the natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors in adding hundreds of thousands of jobs to the U.S. economy. By way of example, the shale gas revolution that is providing so many benefits across the United States was supported, in part, by federal tax incentives.

Continued support for clean energy incentives is in the best interest of American taxpayers and supports a well-reasoned national energy strategy that improves our economic conditions at home and strengthens America's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

The Council and its members have been gathering input from experts on how clean energy can fit into comprehensive tax reform and the Council is willing to engage in discussions about how to structure comprehensive tax reform, if and when Congress moves legislation in this or a future Congress.

However, until comprehensive tax reform is enacted, the Council strongly urges Congress to extend expiring and expired clean energy tax incentives.

We look forward to constructively working with you as you consider spending and tax policy proposals this fall.

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