



June 14, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Baucus and Grassley:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), we express our strong support for the Cantwell-LeMieux amendment, which would extend and expand the Section 1603 Treasury Grant Program (TGP), as part of the tax extenders bill that is expected to be considered by the Senate this week. It is essential that the tax extenders are passed as soon as possible to continue to enable clean energy job creation this year.

The BCSE is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing the suite of currently available energy technologies for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Biogas, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind, 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.

Section 1603 of the ARRA authorizes the Department of the Treasury to issue grants to renewable energy facilities that would otherwise qualify for the investment tax credit or production tax credit which are completed in 2009 or 2010 or start construction in 2009 or 2010 and are completed by a deadline. We appreciate that the Cantwell-LeMieux amendment expands the TGP and extends the start construction date to December 31, 2012, similar to provisions in Senator Diane Feinstein's bill, S. 2899, the "Renewable Energy Incentives Act."

The TGP has been a highly effective vehicle for creating well-paying American clean energy jobs quickly. In response to a House Ways and Means Committee inquiry into the impact of the TGP, the Lawrence Berkeley Lab issued a report in April 2010 that found the following:

- The TGP supports technology diversity and has awarded the grant to a wide range of projects from biomass, combined heat & power, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal electric, solar heat & hot water, wind, landfill gas, hydropower, geothermal, and fuel cell;
- In total, 4.25 GW of renewable power projects have come online and been supported by the TGP at the time of the report; and
- Most significantly, the TGP created over 55,000 jobs in wind and geothermal industries in 2009.

Further, a study released this week by the independent EuPD Research found that 17,000 solar jobs were supported in 2009 by the TGP. The same report forecasts that extending the TGP by two years will add nearly 65,000 new jobs to the solar workforce and supporting industries across the U.S. in 2015. It also found that it will yield a net savings to the government of \$400 million between 2010 and 2016.

As these studies have shown, the TGP has been successful and has put tens of thousands of Americans to work. We appreciate your consideration and urge your support of the Cantwell-LeMieux amendment to extend and expand the TGP as part of the tax extenders bill. The immediate passage of these extenders will help create more high-quality clean energy jobs this year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President

CC: Members of the United States Senate