



AMERICAN  
SUSTAINABLE  
BUSINESS  
COUNCIL

January 30, 2017

President Donald Trump  
Executive Office of the President  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As groups that represent more than 250,000 companies, have created over 600,000 jobs and manage more than \$100 billion in venture and private equity capital, we are writing to ensure that you and your cabinet nominees are fully aware of the importance of one of the fastest growing sectors in the U.S. economy – one that employs millions of Americans in all 50 states.

As you prepare to take office:

- Over 3 million Americans work in clean energy – in energy efficiency, solar, wind, geothermal, clean vehicle and equipment manufacturing as of 2016.<sup>1</sup> This figure represents significant growth, with the solar workforce increasing by 25% while wind employment increased by 32%.
- Clean energy jobs are being created in every state in our country. These are high-paying jobs in construction, manufacturing, engineering, research and development, and technical and professional services.<sup>2</sup>
- Renewable energy is the leading source of new power generation in the U.S., comprising 68 percent of all new power capacity in 2015.<sup>3</sup> This is a continuation of a long-standing trend as renewables have made up more than 50 percent of all new power capacity added since 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Energy and Employment Report, Department of Energy, 2017: <https://energy.gov/articles/doe-releases-second-annual-national-energy-employment-analysis-0>

<sup>2</sup> Clean Jobs America, Environmental Entrepreneurs, 2016: [http://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/CleanJobsAmerica\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/CleanJobsAmerica_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-04/renewables-top-fossil-fuels-as-biggest-source-of-new-u-s-power>

- Every major automaker is investing in electric vehicles<sup>4</sup> and advanced manufacturing to produce the next generation of vehicles for consumers around the world, and you have already taken steps to ensure that this manufacturing is done in the U.S.

The clean energy sector is also attracting large amounts of capital and investment. Last year, over \$44 billion was invested in the U.S. renewable energy sector, part of the record \$286 billion invested in renewables worldwide. Similar amounts are being invested in energy efficiency projects with \$221 billion invested globally.

In places like China and Europe governments are aggressively investing in research, development and deployment of clean energy and other technologies. America must act decisively to avoid falling behind. Europe has been a historical leader in the clean energy sector. China recently announced its plan to invest \$360 billion in renewable energy by 2020. The United Arab Emirates will be investing \$163 billion in renewable energy and generate 50 percent of its power from renewables by 2050. India has set a goal of 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2022. These represent massive potential markets for U.S. companies.

Here are five ways to ensure the U.S. retains its clean energy leadership:

1. Ensure that U.S. companies are able to export products and technologies around the world and position themselves as leaders in clean energy.
2. Strong policy support for research and development of clean and advanced technologies and manufacturing techniques.
3. Maintain a stable and supportive policy environment to encourage capital formation, innovation and increased deployment in the sector.
4. Ensure a truly level playing field between all energy sources in the tax code.
5. Recognize that as the largest source of new power for several years running, renewable energy is a critical part of our nations' infrastructure and support additional investment in the sector as part of any infrastructure program.

Like you, our members are businesspeople who understand the importance of investing in opportunities that will return dividends and drive future growth. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or officials who will be serving in your Administration, to discuss these issues further.

We stand ready to support policies that help grow our economy while protecting our environment.

Sincerely,

Richard Eidlin

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<sup>4</sup> WSJ link: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/mind-the-shock-as-auto-investing-turns-electric-1481626699>

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