



October 21, 2021

Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support of Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Workforce Development and Related Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Provisions in Budget Reconciliation

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to include strong clean energy and energy efficiency workforce development and related diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) provisions in any infrastructure and reconciliation packages that Congress passes this year.

Clean energy and energy efficiency sectors support over 3 million U.S. jobs and are poised for significant growth in the next decade.¹ Further, to achieve our nation’s climate change and energy goals, we will need to greatly expand the number of clean energy and energy efficiency workers, across many job classes and in all communities across the country.

Critical to realizing this potential is public-private partnership and, specifically, expanded federal support and investment in workforce development. As we do this, we must ensure that this support and investment reaches underserved and underinvested communities.

Prior to COVID-19, clean energy and energy efficiency industries identified workforce development as a priority. Forecasted retirements in the sector denote an aging workforce and a need to recruit for the next wave of professionals.

Further, as communities, states and the federal government work to address climate change and rapidly accelerate deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency, it is estimated that the sector has the potential to create millions more well-paying, career supporting jobs.

To ensure that we are able to meet our clean energy and climate change targets, we must invest now in workforce development. The provisions listed below are critical to helping our nation meet these challenges, and they will also help to expand these employment opportunities to communities that seek economic development and jobs, resulting in a more inclusive and diverse clean energy and energy efficiency workforce.

¹ U.S. Energy Employment Jobs Report, 2021: <https://www.energy.gov/us-energy-employment-jobs-report-user>

- **Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole House Rebates and Training Grants (Title III Subtitle D—Energy, Part 2 Residential Efficiency and Electrification Rebates, Section 30421 - HR 5376):** This provision would provide \$500 million for grants to states through State Energy Programs, to provide training courses and opportunities to support energy efficiency contractor training, to train workers to support and provide home energy efficiency retrofits.
- **Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program—Low-Income Solar (Title III Subtitle D—Energy, Part 8 Other Energy Matters, Section 30483 - HR 5376):** The Low-Income Solar provision would allocate \$2.5 billion over 10 years to provide solar access to low-income households. According to the legislation, in addition to other identified priorities, priority funding would be given to those projects that include apprenticeship, job training, or community participation as part of a grant application.
- **Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles (Title III Subtitle A—Air Pollution, Section 30101 - HR 5376):** This section provides a \$5 billion allocation, from which awards and contracts could be made for rebates up to 100% of costs for workforce development and training to support maintenance, charging, fueling, and operations of zero-emission vehicles, in addition to other purposes.
- **Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act of 2021 (H.R. 156):** The Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act reauthorizes and modifies the Department of Energy's Office of Minority Economic Impact as well as establishes a program to provide grants to certain businesses, labor organizations, nonprofit organizations, or qualified youth or conservation corps to pay the eligible wages or stipends for individuals receiving training to work for businesses that provide services related to renewable electric energy generation and energy efficiency. HR 156 was not included in the Build Back Better Act, however we support passage of the legislation this year.

The opportunity to create millions of clean energy and energy efficiency jobs is before us. We urge you to act now and invest in workforce development and related diversity, equity and inclusion, to ensure we can achieve our climate change and energy goals and help families and communities benefit from clean energy and energy efficiency jobs.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
 American Council on Renewable Energy
 Business Council for Sustainable Energy
 Clean Energy Business Network
 E2
 E4theFuture
 Building Performance Association
 Building Performance Institute
 U.S. Green Building Council

Cc: Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Honorable Patty Murray, Chairman, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Honorable Robert C. Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor