



CREATING GOOD JOBS, A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, AND A FAIR AND THRIVING ECONOMY

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chair
Science, Space, and Technology Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Ranking Member
Science, Space, and Technology Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Scott
Chair
Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Ranking Member
Agriculture Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell, Chair Bernice Johnson, Chair Scott, and Chair Pallone, Ranking Member Wicker, Ranking Member Lucas, Ranking Member Thomson, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers,

As a national partnership of labor unions and environmental groups, collectively representing millions of members and supporters, the BlueGreen Alliance thanks you for your efforts to address the urgent needs of innovation, America's economic competitiveness, and the security and resiliency of domestic supply chains.

We urge you to swiftly finalize an innovation bill based on the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA) and the America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022 (America COMPETES). As you craft a final bill, we urge you to include provisions that ensure that federal investments in innovation, competitiveness, and supply chain resiliency create quality, family-sustaining jobs, support our domestic manufacturing base, and contribute to emissions reductions and the growth of a thriving domestic clean technology industry.

Recent events like the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have revealed and widened dangerous gaps in our manufacturing supply chains. Securing the manufacturing jobs of the future is critical for a strong American economy. Manufacturing once supplied good-paying jobs to workers across this country and was the backbone of the American middle class. However, the nation has lost nearly 5 million manufacturing jobs since 1997. Decades of bad policy, offshoring, and outsourcing have weakened supply chains and eliminated jobs. We have an important opportunity to reverse this trend by investing in growing clean technology manufacturing and supply chains in the United States.

Countries around the world are rushing to capture the manufacturing and jobs benefits of the global shift to clean energy. Even as the United States joins other nations in rapidly deploying clean technology, our ability to manufacture these technologies is not keeping pace and we are dependent on vulnerable overseas supply chains for critical subcomponents or technology. Today, far too many of the solar panels, solar components, electric vehicle (EV) components, and parts and materials for wind turbines are manufactured overseas and shipped to the United States. The United States has not been taking full advantage of this opportunity to support and strengthen domestic manufacturing while building out clean energy.

USICA and America COMPETES begin to address many of these issues. As conference negotiations begin, we urge you to move toward a final bill that:

- Invests over \$52 billion through the CHIPS Act to create a competitive supply chain for semiconductor production in the United States, including investments in the production of the materials and equipment needed to manufacture semiconductors;
- Authorizes \$45 billion for a manufacturing security and resilience program, which would create a grant, loan, and loan guarantee program to support the resilience, diversity, security, and strength of domestic supply chains across a broad range of industries;
- Authorizes \$3 billion in funding for a solar component manufacturing supply chain assistance program;
- Ensures programs that provide support for domestic supply chains create good jobs through including labor peace language;
- Expands eligibility under the industrial emissions reduction technology development program to include commercial deployment of technologies that reduce emissions from industrial facilities and authorizes \$5 billion for that purpose;
- Creates a new program to support the first three commercial-scale applications of transformative industrial technologies and authorizes \$9.5 billion in grants and loans for that program;
- Authorizes \$500 million to provide financial assistance to states and tribes to improve energy efficiency, carbon intensity, and other sustainability measures of manufacturing facilities;
- Establishes a specific research and development program at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to reduce the carbon footprint in steel production;
- Codifies the Biden administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030;
- Renews and reforms the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC);
- Includes provisions from the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 to create more accountability around, and facilitate greater enforcement of trade rules;

- Authorizes the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to institute a competitive grant program aimed in part at developing and improving educational material and teacher training on the topic of climate change; and
- Ends the offshore wind lease sale moratorium on the Atlantic between North Carolina and Florida.

These investments in our nation's manufacturing supply chains, energy infrastructure, and climate action are essential for supporting family-sustaining jobs and a healthy environment. We thank you for considering these critical issues and urge you to take our recommendations into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Walsh', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jason Walsh
Executive Director
BlueGreen Alliance