Baseload Coalition Supports Tech Neutral Tax Proposal Offered by Senator Wyden

Baseload Technology Tax Credits Currently Expired; Clean Energy for America Act Would Create Much-Needed Consistency Across All Renewables

Washington, DC – May 2, 2019 – The Baseload Coalition, including the Biomass Power Association, National Hydropower Association, American Biogas Council and Energy Recovery Council, expressed support today for the Clean Energy for America Act proposed by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR). The members of the Baseload Coalition represent renewable energy technologies that were left out of the 2015 Path Act, and whose tax credits have been expired since December 31, 2017. As a result, these technologies have experienced very little growth in recent years. The Baseload Coalition hopes to see short-term extensions of tax credits this year, and supports Senator Wyden’s proposal as a long-term solution for renewable energy tax imbalances.

"In the absence of a national energy policy, tax policy has become the tool that Congress uses to incentivize new energy production,” said Carrie Annand, Biomass Power Association Executive Director. “For too long, tax policy has favored the growth of certain technologies at the expense of other technologies. By basing tax incentives on carbon emissions, Senator Wyden’s proposal levels the playing field for new renewable energy production, including for biomass power. It also offers credits for energy storage and carbon capture capabilities paired with biomass plants. We support Senator Wyden’s proposal and look forward to helping him build support."

“The National Hydropower Association applauds Sen. Wyden for his leadership in introducing the Clean Energy for America Act and believes several provisions in this bill would jumpstart the deployment of hydropower, marine energy and pumped storage projects throughout the country,” said Linda Church Ciocci, NHA President and CEO. “The creation of long-term technology-neutral tax credits would address the inequities under current tax policies, and allow the hydropower industry to realize its full growth potential.”

“History has shown that energy tax measures do accelerate private sector investment, create new jobs and contribute to the growth of domestically produced energy. But those tax measures have also been technology specific which boosts some industries while placing others at an immediate competitive disadvantage,” said ABC Executive Director Patrick Serfass. “Senator Wyden’s legislation will level the playing field for all renewable energy technologies and as a result provide a significant acceleration to the biogas industry.”

“The Energy Recovery Council commends Senator Wyden for introducing the Clean Energy for America Act, which will provide important incentives to renewable electricity technologies. The Act relies on science to create a clean energy incentive program that encompasses a broad range of technologies and creates a long-term, equitable framework within which a new generation technologies of many types can be developed,” said Ted Michaels, President of the Energy Recovery Council.

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