Silicon Valley Leadership Group Expresses “Support in Principle” for U.S. Energy Innovation Act

Decision is a valuable outcome of long-term relationship with Business Climate Leaders

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) has announced “support in principle” for the bipartisan Energy Innovation Act, the groundbreaking climate solution legislation introduced in Congress this year.

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) will put a steadily rising price on carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, give the revenue to households and bring greenhouse gas emissions down by 90 percent by 2050. Studies show this type of climate policy would also add about 2 million jobs to the American economy.

“We support putting a price on carbon and our position on H.R. 763 is support in principle,” said Mike Mielke, the Leadership Group's Senior Vice President, Environment and Energy. “We look forward to working with the authors to specify how they will work with California and other jurisdictions with existing carbon pricing regimes to implement a coherent carbon pricing system, and identify suitable funding streams or suitable ‘off-ramps’ for existing California-state programs dependent on cap and trade revenue.”

Steve Hams, co-founder and Engagement Director of Business Climate Leaders, said SVLG’s support is important as the Energy Innovation Act moves through Congressional committees.

“The companies that comprise SVLG are among the most innovative and successful companies in the world,” Hams said. “We have been working with the Leadership Group for several years regarding advocacy for federal carbon pricing legislation and are delighted by their expression of support in principle. Their advocacy sends a strong message to leading technology companies considering support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.”

“We’re proud to work at this intersection of innovation and policy – helping foster solutions that benefit our region, our state and the nation,” Mielke said. “Our top policy priorities are corporate environmental sustainability, water infrastructure financing and climate change.”

In meetings with Senate and House leaders in Washington, D.C. in April, the Leadership Group delegation included carbon taxes as part of a broader discussion on climate change. SVLG’s support in principle for H.R. 763 is one more way that it has reaffirmed its environmental commitment.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded by David Packard of Hewlett Packard, is a diverse public policy association of more than 360 dynamic companies shaping the future innovation economy of Silicon Valley, the Bay Area, and the nation. The Leadership Group’s
strength is the breadth of its membership ranging from influential technology name brands, start-ups, civic organizations, and others who, together, account for nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and contribute more than $3 trillion to the worldwide economy.

Business Climate Leaders (BCL) is a volunteer organization that engages major American businesses and business organizations in effective nonpartisan climate advocacy. BCL is an action team of Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization with more than 100,000 volunteers organized into more than 400 chapters around the country.