

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chamber and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports S. 1933, the "Electrify Africa Act of 2015."

S. 1933 would encourage the development of new infrastructure to provide access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 70 percent of the people in the region have no access to electricity, impeding economic growth. Indoor air pollution from wood and dung burning stoves kills more than three million people per year—more than AIDS and malaria combined. By promoting reliable access to energy, this bill would help remove one of the continent's most significant barriers to development.

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to many fast growing economies, including 6 of the 12 fastest growing in the world. Not only would boosting the availability of electricity help meet the demands of Africa's emerging middle class, it would expand market opportunities for U.S. companies. Appropriately, this bill places an emphasis on the role of the private sector as it promotes access to electricity. In its analysis of an earlier, nearly identical version of this bill, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that implementation of the Electrify Africa Act would save the United States \$86 million over five years, and the CBO is expected to issue a similar finding with regard to this version of the legislation.

S. 1933 would direct the administration to create a comprehensive strategy to increase access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. This bill would direct U.S. agencies involved in economic development to use existing tools and to work with the World Bank and the African Development Bank to increase electrification investments in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve this goal.

The Chamber urges you to support S. 1933, the "Electrify Act of 2015."

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten