

May 2, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and
Water Development
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Senator Alexander:

As a broad coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, and public interest groups, we are writing to urge you to support crucial energy efficiency programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Specifically, we ask that you support the President's FY 2014 Budget request – except where noted otherwise – for the following key energy efficiency programs at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE):

1. **Building Technologies Program (\$300 million);**
2. **Advanced Manufacturing (\$365 million);**
3. **Federal Energy Management Program (\$36 million);**
4. **State Energy Program (\$57 million);**
5. **Weatherization Assistance Program (\$230 million); and**
6. **Energy Productivity Race to the Top.**

We recommend that you exceed the President's FY 2014 Budget request for the **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and allocate \$230 million (approximately the FY 2008 appropriated level)** to maintain program activities in every state. As you are aware, the Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest residential energy conservation program in the country, and reduces the burden of high energy prices on low-income families, seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Additionally, we encourage you to back the intent of the **President's Race to the Top proposal** challenging states and local governments to improve their energy productivity and craft innovative new policies that would advance energy productivity in their jurisdictions.

We recognize that our federal government faces significant challenges in reducing spending, yet we strongly believe that failing to fund EERE energy efficiency investments at the proposed levels would undermine our national economic, environmental and security interests. As the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest strategy to meet American energy demand, energy efficiency is essential for keeping our country competitive on a global scale, and maintaining a steady and appropriate level of funding is integral to the success of these energy efficiency programs.

Without the numerous energy efficiency improvements made since 1973, the United States would require an additional 50 percent more energy to power the current economy.¹ Our energy demand is projected to increase by 10% by 2035.² EERE's energy efficiency programs will help break us away from this trajectory, freeing substantial energy and economic resources for businesses and consumers that can then be reinvested into the American economy while also strengthening the resilience of our energy systems.

Earlier this year, the President set a goal to cut energy waste in half over the next 20 years, and double the energy productivity of the U.S. economy over that time frame. Maintaining funding for energy efficiency programs would help us reach this goal, and set us on a path towards greater economic security, a cleaner environment, and global competitiveness. A recent study for the Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy found that doubling U.S. energy productivity by 2030 through energy efficiency measures could save Americans \$327 billion annually and create 1.3 million new jobs.³ Meeting this objective could also reduce energy imports by \$100 billion per year, enhancing our energy security, and would spur innovation and growth throughout various sectors of our economy.

America has the opportunity to secure our energy resources, modernize our energy infrastructure, and surge ahead to become a world leader in clean energy and efficient manufacturing. Investments in energy efficiency programs will allow us to help reduce the burden of volatile energy prices, cut harmful emissions and their impacts on public health, decrease our dependence on foreign sources of energy, heighten energy reliability, and create much needed jobs.

For the aforementioned reasons, we strongly encourage your consideration of the proposed funding levels for key energy efficiency programs led by EERE as you move forward with the FY 2014 appropriations process. We welcome the chance to brief you or your staffs on the benefits energy efficiency programs provide to consumers and businesses. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
ASHRAE
Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions
Boulder County Commissioners
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Climate Solutions
Conservation Services Group
Council of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
Efficiency.org
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Environment America

¹ Alliance to Save Energy, "America's Greatest Resource," 2011. <http://ase.org/resources/energy-efficiency-americas-greatest-energy-resource>.

² U.S. Energy Information Administration's Annual Energy Outlook, 2013. <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo>.

³ Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy, "Energy 2030: Doubling U.S. Energy Productivity by 2030," 2013. http://www.ase.org/sites/default/files/full_commission_report.pdf.

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)
Habitat for Humanity
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
Intelliroof
Interfaith Power and Light
Knauf Insulation
Large Public Power Council
Legrand
Masco Corporation
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
Natural Resources Defense Council
NW Energy Coalition
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)
Rebuilding Together
Rinnai
Seattle City Light
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA)
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Sierra Club
The Stella Group, Ltd.
The Wilderness Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc.

Cc: The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Tim Johnson
The Honorable Mary Landrieu
The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Jon Tester
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Susan Collins
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
The Honorable John Hoeven