



NASEO Endorses Energy Bill, Concerned by Absence of Energy Security Provisions Given Mounting Nation-State Cyber Threats to the Energy System

Washington, D.C. (December 21, 2020) - The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), representing the 56 State and Territory Energy Offices, has endorsed the energy bill resulting from extensive negotiations among Republicans and Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. NASEO's Executive Director, David Terry, stated: "This bipartisan legislation should be passed. While both sides of the aisle, NASEO, and a broad range of energy organizations, hoped that the agreed upon energy-focused cyber and physical security provisions, including security enhancements to the U.S. State Energy Program, could remain a part of the bill, that was not possible. NASEO is appreciative of the efforts of Senate and House committee leaders to retain the provisions, and we are hopeful that the energy bill will be included in the final omnibus appropriations bill for FY'21. The final legislation takes practical steps to enhance energy research and development, promote energy storage, improve federal energy performance contracting, help schools improve energy efficiency, and reauthorizes and updates the Weatherization Assistance Program."

Because of disagreements about federal agency energy-related security roles, the security provisions supported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee were removed. Mr. Terry noted: "As our nation is subject to a barrage of nation-state energy system cyber-attacks and dramatic increases in extreme weather events, it is critical to work with the new Congress and incoming Administration to ensure DOE's unique role in energy sector emergency preparedness and response continues to support state and energy industry efforts." DOE, State Energy Offices, and energy providers have extensive responsibility for energy emergency preparedness, response, and resilience including under the federal "Energy Support Function – 12." DOE received additional authorities developed under the "FAST Act" in 2015, and Congress and the states supported the creation of the DOE Cyber Security, Energy Security and Emergency Response (CESER) office. NASEO is committed to the DOE-state-industry security partnership and to strengthening CESER.

Mr. Terry concluded: "As a nation we must do everything we can to protect our energy infrastructure. We urge the new Congress and the incoming Administration to immediately reintroduce, pass, and sign bipartisan energy security legislation focused on state, DOE, and energy industry cooperation. We do not have a day to waste." Relatedly, the final legislation does not include important voluntary building energy code and technical assistance supported on a bipartisan basis under the leadership of Sen. Portman, Sen. Shaheen, Rep. Welch and Rep. McKinley. Stronger, cost-effective building energy codes which states may choose to adopt are integral to the achievement of our nation's energy goals. NASEO urges Congress and the incoming Administration to move quickly to strengthen voluntary building energy codes.

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About the National Association of State Energy Officials – NASEO is the only national non-profit for the governor-designated State Energy Directors and their offices from each of the 56 states and territories. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO facilitates peer learning among state energy officials, serves as a resource for and about state energy policy, and advocates the interests of the state energy offices to Congress and federal agencies. www.naseo.org