

May XX, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Energy and Water  
Development Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
115 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Energy and Water  
Development Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We write to urge your continued support for two key energy efficiency and clean energy programs within the Department of Energy, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP), and to express our deep concern with the President's preliminary budget proposal to eliminate their funding. These programs provide the foundation for energy efficiency and clean energy investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save households and businesses money, and reduce pollution. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully request that you provide \$230 million for WAP and \$70 million for SEP in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The reduced energy costs free up limited financial resources for essentials such as food and medicine. Over the 30-year history of the program, WAP has helped more than seven million low-income households reduce their energy bills. An independent study of WAP by Oak Ridge National Laboratory indicates that the average single-family home reduced its annual energy costs by \$264 per year through weatherization.

The energy savings are only a portion of the benefits from weatherization. The same study shows that the economic and health benefits of weatherization go far beyond permanently reducing energy costs. Children in weatherized households miss 10 percent less school, improving educational outcomes. Adults suffering from asthma miss 20 percent less work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to economic growth. Because WAP funds leverage other funds, the program directly and indirectly supports 8,500 jobs, and increases national economic output by \$1.2 billion.

The State Energy Program provides technical expertise and funding to states to improve their energy security, increase their energy efficiency, and to boost economic growth. SEP combines the scientific and economic knowledge of the Department of Energy with locally led planning to improve the energy efficiency of hospitals and schools, install clean energy projects, and support private sector energy innovation. A second study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory shows that every SEP dollar spent leads to at least \$4.70 in energy savings. The same study estimates that businesses reinvesting these energy savings into job-creating opportunities leads to thousands of jobs created per year.

We appreciate your efforts and your prioritization of programs that promote job growth and the growth of our nation's economy. We believe that investments in programs like WAP and SEP that reduce costs for American households and businesses, and create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, should continue.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support these programs.

Sincerely,

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Jack Reed  
United States Senator

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Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator