

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 28, 2018

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 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. We understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, and we thank the Committee for providing additional funding for both programs in Fiscal Year (FY 2018). We respectfully request that you provide \$248 million plus funds for technical assistance for WAP and \$70 million for SEP in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

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. Throughout the history of the program, which has spanned more than four decades, WAP has helped more than 7.4 million low-income households reduce their energy bills. An independent study of WAP by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that weatherization saves eligible single-family homes on average \$283 in annual energy cost savings.

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 less school, improving educational outcomes. Adults miss less work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to economic growth. Families also experience fewer asthma symptoms and emergency room visits, decreasing out-of-pocket medical expenses by an average of \$514. WAP also leverages additional non-federal funds, while supporting over 8,500 jobs and increasing 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 study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory shows that every federal dollar invested in SEP leads to at least \$7.22 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.

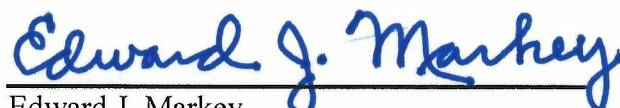
Sincerely,




Jack Reed
U.S. Senator




Susan M. Collins
U.S. Senator



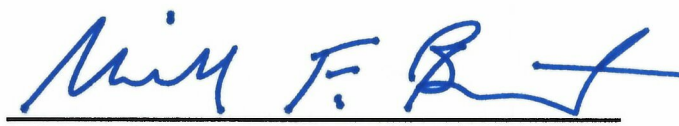
Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senator




Margaret Wood Hassan
U.S. Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



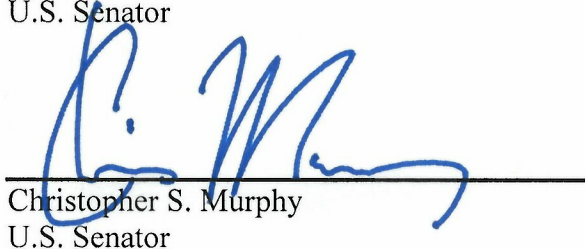
Michael F. Bennet
U.S. Senator



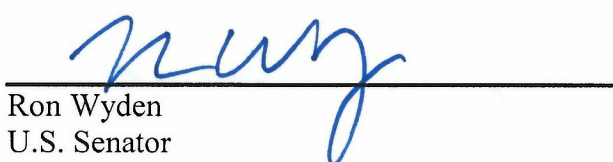
Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator



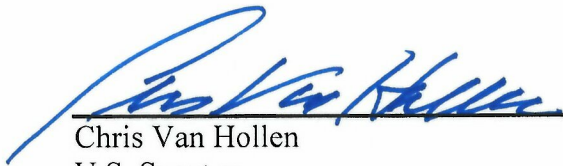
Joe Manchin III
U.S. Senator

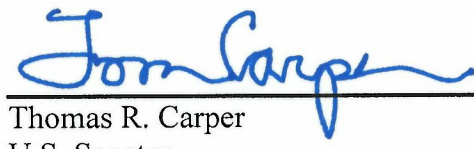


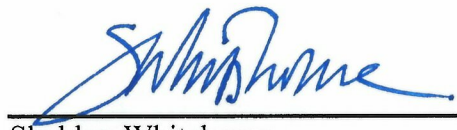
Christopher S. Murphy
U.S. Senator

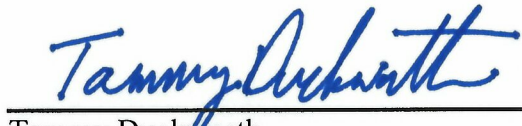


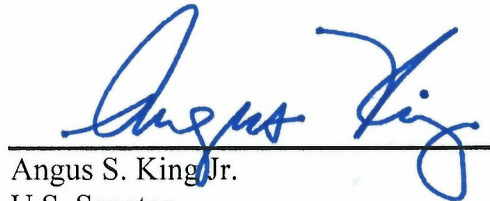
Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator


Chris Van Hollen
U.S. Senator

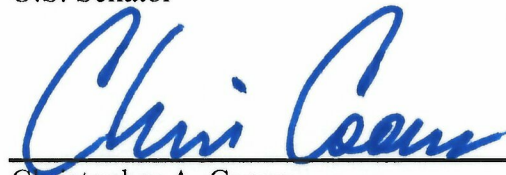

Thomas R. Carper
U.S. Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senator



Tammy Duckworth
U.S. Senator



Angus S. King Jr.
U.S. Senator


Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator

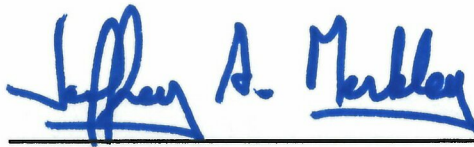

Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator

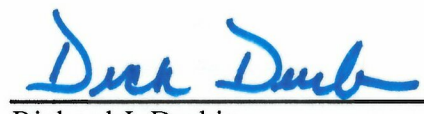

Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator


Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator



Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator


Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senator


Robert P. Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senator


Tom Udall
U.S. Senator


Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator



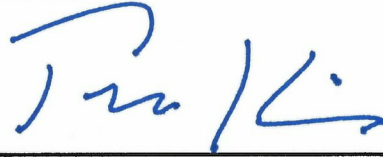
Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator




Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator



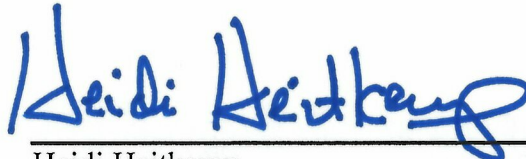
Mazie Hirono
U.S. Senator



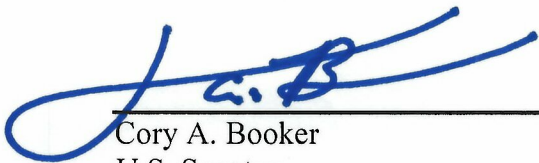
Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator



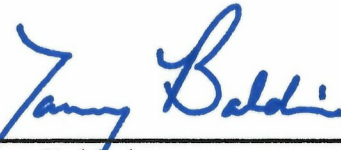
Gary C. Peters
U.S. Senator



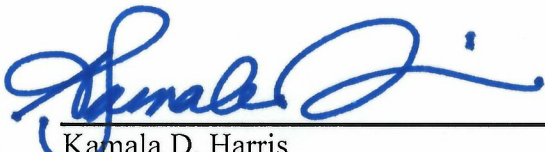
Heidi Heitkamp
U.S. Senator



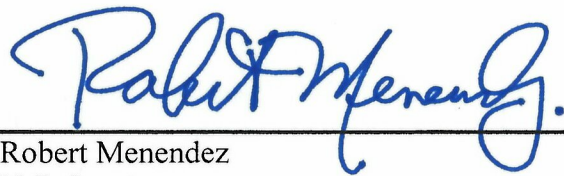
Cory A. Booker
U.S. Senator



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator



Kamala D. Harris
U.S. Senator



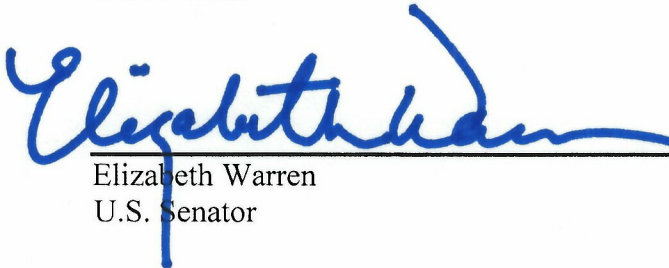
Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
U.S. Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senator



Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator



Tina Smith
U.S. Senator



Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator