



BRIEFING ON STATE ENERGY ACTIVITIES AND WEATHERIZATION

March, 19, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

116 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Co-hosted by Senator Collins and Senator Reed

This briefing will hear from three state energy officials from across the country (Colorado, Rhode Island and Tennessee) and a technology provider for Weatherization from Maine. The presenters will discuss a variety of energy programs implemented at the state and local levels. Two federal-state partnership programs that will be a focus of the discussion – the Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program and the U.S. State Energy Program.

Moderators: Olivia Kurtz (Office of Senator Collins)
Diana Wiggins (Office of Senator Reed)

Presenters: Chris Kearns, Program Development Chief
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Joe Pereira, Director of Weatherization
Colorado Energy Office
Rhett Eldridge, Weatherization Training and Support Coordinator
Farmingdale, Maine

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, veterans and individuals with disabilities improve the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up funds for other essentials like medicine and food. To date, more than 7.4 million low-income residences have been helped, reducing their energy bills by \$250 - \$450 annually for a period of 20 years after the unit receives weatherization services. The federal investment in Weatherization leverages funds from utility ratepayers, utilities, states and private sources. For every dollar invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.51.

The U.S. State Energy Program (SEP) supports state efforts to develop and implement energy projects and programs in every market sector – industrial energy efficiency, financing, transportation, energy emergency planning and response, public facility energy retrofits, infrastructure modernization plans, advanced manufacturing technologies. SEP focuses on advancing technological innovation and economic development in partnership with the private sector through cost-shared demonstrations, support for business incubators, and job training. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every federal dollar invested in the program, \$10.71 of private and other non-federal funds is leveraged and \$7.22 in energy cost savings result.

These state officials will be available to answer questions about a variety of programs that they operate and their extensive coordination and cooperation with the private sector.