



August 17, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Murkowski and Upton and Ranking Members Cantwell and Pallone:

On behalf of the nation's 56 State and Territory Energy Offices, the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), expresses our strong support for key provisions included in the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S. 2012) and the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act (H.R. 8). In particular, the reauthorization of the U.S. State Energy Program (SEP) (as contained in Section 1013 of the Senate-passed bill) continues to advance States' leadership in creating public-private partnerships that deliver energy-related economic development, support governors' comprehensive energy and grid modernization plans, and improve state and national energy emergency response and preparedness activities.

Among the many programs operated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), *SEP is the only DOE program that provides funding directly to states to allocate where state officials determine the greatest energy opportunities and needs exist.* According to an Oak Ridge National Laboratory study, this state-led approach results in states leveraging \$10.71 of non-federal funds for every \$1 of SEP federal funds. Moreover, Oak Ridge National Laboratory also found that that for every \$1 dollar of SEP federal funds states' deliver \$7.23 in annual energy cost savings for consumers, businesses, and local governments. Relying upon the 56 governor-designated State Energy Offices to allocate SEP funds – matched with state and private funds – for energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy planning and energy emergency preparedness means that funding decisions are made closer to consumers and businesses than other DOE programs that are developed in and delivered from Washington, DC. Moreover, State Energy Offices' relationships with private businesses in their communities and engagement in developing supportive state energy policies means that SEP is a key means of adding value to DOE's R&D activities – linking lab technology to private businesses for development, investment, and commercialization.

2107 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 850  
Arlington, Virginia 22201  
Telephone: 703.299.8800  
Facsimile: 703.299.6208  
www.naseo.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair**  
ROBERT JACKSON  
Michigan

**Vice Chair**  
MARK GLICK  
Hawaii

**Secretary**  
MOLLY CRIPPS  
Tennessee

**Treasurer**  
WILLIAM (DUB) TAYLOR  
Texas

**Immediate Past Chair**  
VAUGHN CLARK  
Oklahoma

**Regional Representatives**

ASA HOPKINS  
Vermont

TOMMY WELLS  
District of Columbia

MARISA SLATEN  
New Jersey

DAVID GIPSON  
Georgia

KELLEY SMITH BURK  
Florida

TRISTAN VANCE  
Indiana

MARIA REDMOND  
Wisconsin

JEFF ACKERMANN  
Colorado

PAUL MILLER  
Louisiana

ANDREW MCALLISTER  
California

LAURA NELSON  
Utah

**Affiliates' Co-Chair**  
ANNA PAVLOVA  
Schneider Electric

MEREDITH TUNICK  
Bosch

**Executive Director**  
DAVID TERRY

**General Counsel**  
JEFFREY C. GENZER

NASEO also supports the reauthorization of the Weatherization Assistance Program (as contained in Section 1012 of the Senate-passed bill), which supports low-income energy efficiency – reducing heating and cooling costs – is essential to addressing energy affordability concerns for the poor and elderly in many communities. We strongly recommend one change in the Senate bill regarding Weatherization; please delete the “not less than” language contained on p. 69 (lines 9-10) of the Senate bill. This change will have the effect of setting specific, maximum percentages for a new and competitive innovation fund.

In addition to these two longstanding state programs – SEP and WAP – NASEO also supports:

- 1) Section 4002 of the Senate bill, which will allow states to participate in the loan guarantee program; and
- 2) The Senate version of the building codes language, originally contained in the Portman-Shaheen bill, which will permit states to participate in the program.

NASEO greatly appreciates your leadership and efforts as conferees, and we thank you for your continued support of practical energy programs and policies such as SEP and WAP.

Best regards,



David Terry  
Executive Director, NASEO

cc: Senators John Barrasso, Jim Risch, John Cornyn, Ron Wyden, and Bernie Sanders  
Representatives Rob Bishop, Joe Barton, Ed Whitfield, John Shimkus, Robert Latta, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Pete Olson, David McKinley, Mike Pompeo, Morgan Griffith, Bill Johnson, Bill Flores, Markwayne Mullin, Don Young, Cynthia Lummis, Jeff Denham, Bruce Westerman, Lamar Smith, Randy Weber, Mike Conaway, Glenn Thompson, Raul Grijalva, Crescent Hardy, Lee Zeldin, Collin Peterson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Peter DeFazio, Bobby Rush, Lois Capps, Doris Matsui, John Sarbanes, Peter Welch, Ben Ray Luján, Paul Tonko, Jared Huffman, and Debbie Dingell