



**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2014

The Honorable President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request support for two key energy programs within your Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) budget proposal: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). Specifically, we urge you to ensure that your budget provide robust funding for WAP and SEP by restoring these programs to pre-Recovery Act levels.

The Weatherization Assistance Program has helped low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting and cost-effective energy efficiency improvements to their homes and reduce the burden of high energy prices for more than three decades. To date, more than 7.4 million homes have been weatherized, providing as much as \$450 in savings on a household's annual energy bill. WAP also supports thousands of high quality jobs. The National Association of State Energy Officials estimates are about 10,000 highly skilled jobs in the weatherization network, with countless more supported in related businesses including materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers who make more than 90% of the products used in weatherization. WAP has helped the construction industry and given a boost to American manufacturers and small businesses during challenging economic times. In addition, electric and gas utilities in many states depend on the WAP delivery network to carry out low-income residential efficiency initiatives, leveraging scarce resources and measurably increasing the impact of WAP in these states. As the program's funding has declined in recent years, both the state-level and private sector programs that rely on the WAP network and infrastructure have been impaired.

The State Energy Program also has a history of success working across sectors of the economy and supporting cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. The last comprehensive study of the program by Oak Ridge National Lab showed that each federal dollar invested in SEP is leveraged by nearly \$11 of state and private funds and results in more than \$7 in annual energy savings. These SEP-supported projects and programs include a wide-range of activities, such as school energy efficiency programs, energy efficiency financing activities, industrial and commercial programs, and energy efficiency for homeowners, and agricultural projects.

We recognize the ongoing challenges facing the discretionary budget and urge you to prioritize WAP and SEP, two well established, cost-effective programs that support jobs, contribute to the nation's economic recovery, and help meet important goals like improving energy efficiency and lowering energy costs. We believe this is a sound investment of federal dollars and ensuring that there are adequate resources to maintain effective WAP and SEP programs should be a priority.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of these important programs.

Sincerely,

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