



**For Immediate Release**

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**NASEO Supports Open Back Better Act – Key to Improving the Resilience, Energy Efficiency, and Operation of Federal, State and Local Mission-Critical Facilities**

WASHINGTON (June 25, 2020) — The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) has worked with a variety of private-sector organizations to develop a national public-private partnership program to enhance the resilience, energy efficiency, and performance of our nation’s mission critical facilities and energy infrastructure, including defense installations, federal facilities, state office buildings, universities, water treatment operations, shelters, healthcare facilities, and schools. These efforts reached a new milestone today with the introduction of the ***Open Back Better Act of 2020*** by U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) and U.S. Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE).

The *Open Back Better Act of 2020* would provide \$20 billion over four years for mission-critical public infrastructure. It saves invaluable time by operating through three existing U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programs: the U.S. State Energy Program, DOE Federal Energy Management Program, and the DOE Office of Indian Energy, all of which are able to deploy quickly, catalyze private sector investment, and put people back to work while providing much needed infrastructure improvements.

“We thank Senator Smith and Representative Blunt-Rochester for the introduction of this important legislation that will help American taxpayers and all our citizens make needed upgrades to mission-critical facilities, like hospitals, schools and community shelters. Importantly, it addresses resiliency needs to help people respond to pandemics, hurricanes, floods, wildfires and other weather and climate-related disasters,” stated David Terry, NASEO’s Executive Director. “This bill should be passed as soon as possible, as it can help put people back to work and upgrade energy efficiency, incorporate renewable energy, and increase the use of modern technology. The key is that private funds would be used to address these improvements, while utilizing federal funds to deal with resiliency needs. The State Energy Offices stand ready to implement this program.”

A summary of the bill is available [here](#), and the bill text [here](#). NASEO will keep its State and Territory Energy Office and Affiliate members apprised of future developments pertaining to the *Open Back Better Act of 2020*.

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**About the National Association of State Energy Officials**

NASEO is the only national non-profit association for the governor-designated State Energy Directors and their offices from each of the 56 states and territories. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO facilitates peer learning among state energy officials, serves as a resource for and about state energy policy, and advocates the interests of the state energy offices to Congress and federal agencies. [www.naseo.org](http://www.naseo.org)