

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2016

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 key energy efficiency and clean energy programs within the Department of Energy: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs provide the foundation for clean energy investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save families and businesses money through improved efficiency, and reduce pollution. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully request that you fund WAP at \$230 million and SEP at \$70 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes, freeing up finite resources for other essentials like food and medicine. For over 30 years, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 7.3 million low-income households, reducing their annual energy bills by an average of \$437. Those savings can stay within the local economy and have a large multiplier effect, spurring further job growth and economic development.

Indeed, a study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that weatherization saves single-family home on average \$283 in annual energy cost savings, which benefits not only the household but the local economy. The study notes that WAP and leveraged expenditures supported directly and indirectly 8,500 jobs and increased national economic output by \$1.2 billion. Restoring funding for WAP closer to its historic funding levels, at \$230 million, with \$5 million for training and technical assistance, will ensure that states have the resources to support their weatherization programs that help reduce the burden of high energy prices on low-income families.

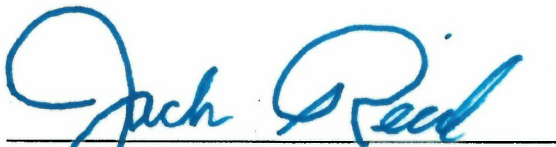
The State Energy Program allows states to assist with the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, such as improving the efficiency of hospitals and schools, working with utilities and energy service companies to install clean energy and energy efficiency projects, and supporting private sector energy innovations through business incubators and job training. Similar to WAP, each dollar of SEP funding produces significant returns.

Another study, also by the Oakridge National Laboratory, found that every \$50 million of SEP federal funds resulted in \$585 million in economic development. As such, we respectfully request that this program be funded at \$70 million, the same level as included in the President's FY17 budget request.

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 both individuals and businesses, and create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, should be maintained and robustly funded.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



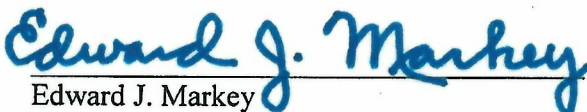
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



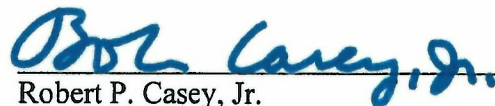
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



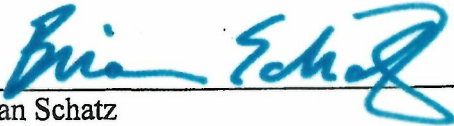
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



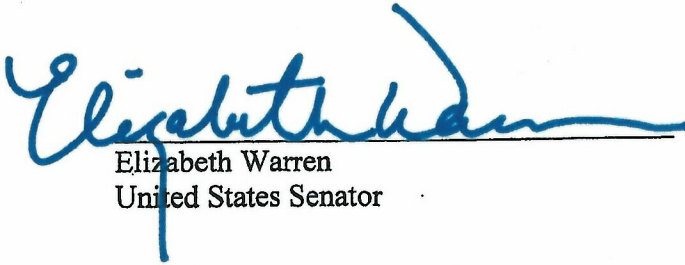
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



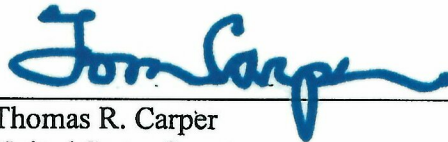
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



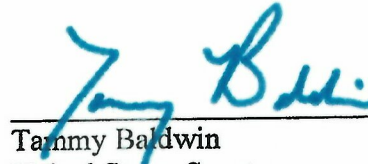
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator




Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



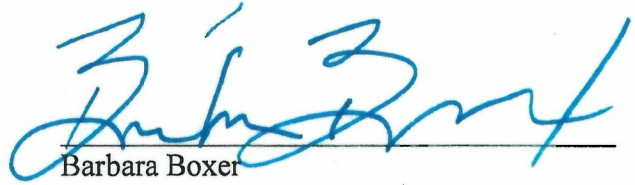
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



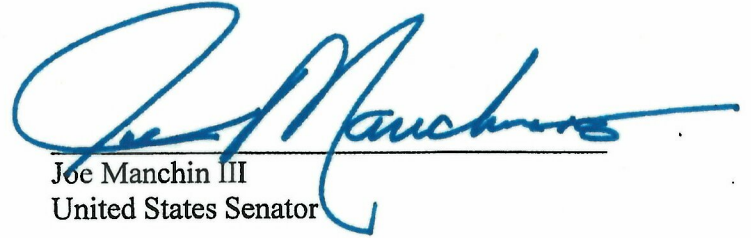
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



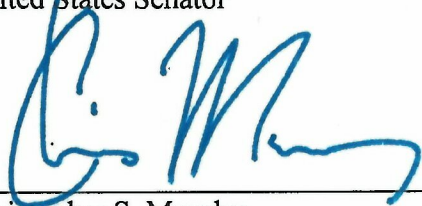
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



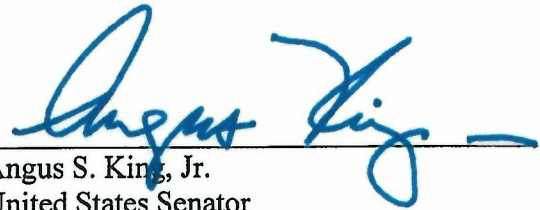
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



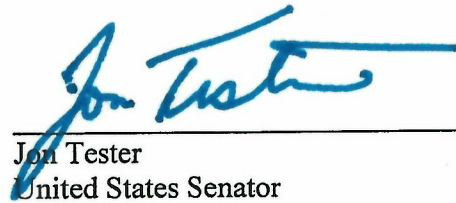
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



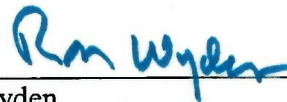
Al Franken
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator