

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2018

Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We are writing to express our strong support for key energy efficiency programs within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). These programs, which are leveraged across the board through public-private partnerships, have helped modernize an energy efficiency sector that employs about 2.2 million Americans. More can be done, and as we invest in and upgrade U.S. energy infrastructure we must ensure that DOE has the resources it needs to continue to deliver direct savings to homeowners, consumers and business.

Energy efficiency is our nation's most abundant energy resource. Without the gains in energy efficiency made since 1973, it is estimated that today's U.S. economy would require 60 percent more energy than we currently consume. In fact, savings from energy efficiency improvements over the last 40 years have reduced our national energy bill by more than \$800 billion.

Many of these improvements would not have been possible without the research, technical assistance and market integration efforts from the energy efficiency programs at DOE. For example, support for EERE core programs has driven meaningful results across the spectrum, from more than \$539 billion in consumer savings from energy efficiency standards to a 94 percent decline in the cost of LED lighting since 2008. DOE EERE programs have provided exceptional value to American consumers and businesses, yielding benefits that far outweigh the relatively nominal outlays appropriated by Congress.

To that end, we respectfully request Fiscal Year 2019 (FY2019) funding for the following DOE programs, as summarized below:

Advanced Manufacturing Office

We request \$305 million for the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) to enable the research, development, demonstration and deployment of industrial energy efficiency and advanced manufacturing technologies that will keep U.S. companies competitive in international markets and able to retain and expand employment opportunities in local economies. AMO is a key component of many public-private partnerships that leverage federal investment in high-performance computing, advanced materials, and smart manufacturing. Transfer of these

technologies to the private sector is critically important to sustained international competitiveness of the nation's small and mid-size manufacturers. We support funding of Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, Industrial Assessment Centers, Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships and the deployment of energy efficient manufacturing technologies and practices, such as smart manufacturing.

Building Technologies Office

We request \$250 million for the Building Technologies Office (BTO), which develops innovative, cost-effective technologies, tools and solutions that help U.S. homeowners, consumers and businesses achieve peak energy efficiency performance in their buildings across all sectors of our economy. Within this account, robust funding is needed for:

- Emerging Technologies (ET): The Emerging Technologies (ET) program supports applied research and development (R&D) for technologies, systems and models that contribute to reducing energy consumption. ET is helping to meet this goal by enabling cost-effective, energy-efficient technologies and accelerating the adoption of these technologies into the marketplace.
- Residential Buildings Integration (RBI): Through the Residential Buildings Integration (RBI) initiative, DOE collaborates with the construction trades, small businesses, equipment and systems suppliers as well as state and local governments to improve the energy efficiency of both new and existing homes. By developing, demonstrating and deploying cost-effective solutions, the program aims to reduce by 2025, the energy use for space conditioning and water heating in single-family homes by 40 percent as compared with 2010 levels.
- Commercial Building Integration (CBI): BTO's Commercial Building Integration (CBI) program helps to advance a range of innovative building technologies and solutions, paving the way for high performing buildings that could use up to 70 percent less energy than average buildings. CBI works with industry, small businesses, academia, the national labs and other entities to advance energy efficiency solutions and technologies for commercial buildings.
- Efficiency Standards, Building Codes and Test Procedures: DOE is responsible for setting minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances, equipment and lighting to ensure new models continue to make progress on efficiency as technology matures. The agency is also responsible for updating test procedures to reflect product improvements, particularly Internet connectivity. DOE plays an important support and technical assistance roles in the development and implementation of building energy codes, which are adopted by states and local governments, for new residential and commercial construction that reflect developments in building energy efficiency—and “lock in” savings for the life of the building.

Federal Energy Management Program

We request \$36 million for the Federal Energy Management Program to provide project and policy expertise to all federal agencies, helping them meet Congressional and Executive energy management goals, such as reducing waste in federal agency energy use, spurring innovation and the commercialization of efficient technologies.

Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs

We request \$321 million for Weatherization and Intergovernmental Activities. Within this account, we respectfully request \$248 million plus funds for technical assistance for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and \$70 million for the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs support energy efficiency and clean energy technologies and practices in partnership with state, local and territorial governments. SEP defers to the governors all decisions on allocating resources provided by DOE to meet their states' priorities such as energy emergency planning and response and energy related economic development.

Energy Information Administration

We support funding the Energy Information Administration (EIA) at \$135 million in order to continue important data collection, analysis and reporting activities on energy use and consumption, including the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey and the Residential Buildings Energy Consumption Survey. Additional data is also needed on LEDs (light-emitting diode bulbs and fixtures), commercial building codes and transmission.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Funding at the levels requested would provide DOE with the resources it needs to accomplish its mission, help the federal government meet its goals and implement initiatives that benefit all sectors of our economy

Accountability at the Department of Energy

We encourage you to once again to include clear direction to DOE to obligate funds consistent with Congressional intent and in a timely manner. At least twice in 2017, programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee experienced confusion around timing and delays. In particular, DOE was slow to disburse WAP funding in FY2017. Moreover, on December 12, 2017, the Governmental Accountability Office notified Congress of its audit findings that DOE had violated the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act by withholding appropriated funds for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) program in FY2017 (see B-329092). It is vital that appropriated funds are distributed per Congressional intent and without delay in order for the continued development of technologies that will reduce energy waste, keep our economy competitive and create jobs.

Additionally, we request the addition of the following language, which builds upon the approved text in S. Rept. 115-113 (115th Congress), at the end of the "Early-Stage Research and Development" paragraph for FY2019:

- "... Building energy efficiency programs are a critical element in energy emergency preparedness and response, and physical and cyber security. The Committee expects all appropriated funds provided for later stage research and development activities to be obligated according to the Committee's intent and in a timely manner."

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Funding at the levels requested would provide DOE with the resources it needs to accomplish its mission, help the federal government meet its goals and implement initiatives that benefit and deliver direct savings across all sectors of our economy.

Sincerely,



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



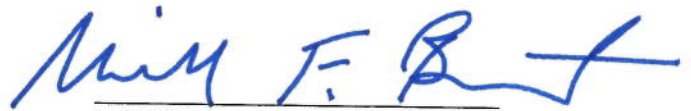
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator




MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator



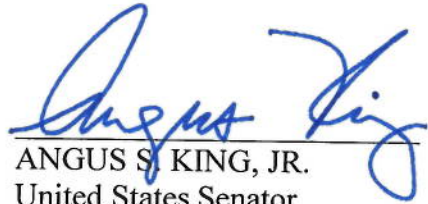
THOMAS R. CARPER
United States Senator



MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator



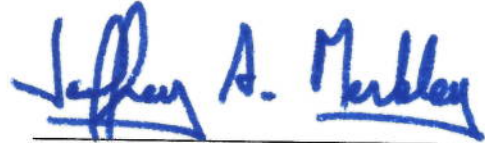
JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



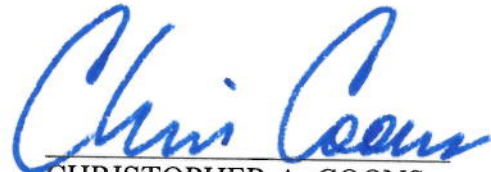
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United States Senator



JEFFREY MERKLEY
United States Senator



JACK REED
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DEBBIE STABENOW
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United States Senator



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United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator



TINA SMITH
United States Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator



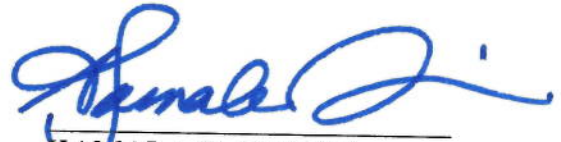
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United States Senator



MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
United States Senator



KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator



ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator

cc: Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations