

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

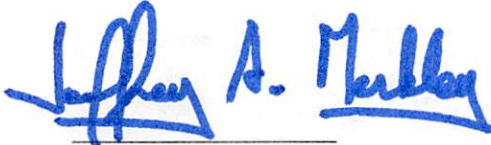
We write to express our deep concern over President Trump's proposal to restructure the ENERGY STAR into a fee-based program in the FY2020 budget. ENERGY STAR is an example of government working at its best: a voluntary program that typically recognizes the 25% most energy-efficient equipment and buildings. ENERGY STAR benefits consumers with huge savings for every dollar of its relatively modest budget. ENERGY STAR in 2015 alone helped consumers and businesses save over \$34 billion on their utility bills. Switching to a fee-based model could undermine ENERGY STAR's integrity, independence, and objective nature that is key to the program's success.

The program's results explain why about 90% of Americans know and recognize the ENERGY STAR brand, making it arguably the most powerful icon of energy efficiency in the United States. Energy efficiency is a goal that benefits everyone: saving energy means more money for families to pay for education, healthcare, and retirement. It means that American manufacturers are staying competitive and building better products. Having energy-efficient homes and factories means we use less electricity during peak times, which increases grid security and lowers blackout risk. Reduced electricity use means lower power plant emissions, cleaner air, and healthier Americans. In fact, since ENERGY STAR's creation, the program has resulted in 2.7 billion metric tons of avoided greenhouse gas emissions – the same as taking 23 million cars off the road for 25 years.

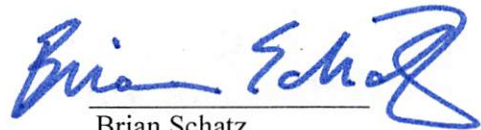
Furthermore, ENERGY STAR's benefits have been the foundation for economic growth: 2.2 million Americans work in some capacity on the design, production, or installation of ENERGY STAR products. Over 16,000 retailers, manufacturers, and other businesses partner with the ENERGY STAR program, which spans more than 70 product categories. About 45% of the commercial building floor space in the U.S. has been benchmarked for tracking and analyzing energy consumption using ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager. In 2015 alone, 89,000 households hired 1,600 contractors to make efficiency upgrades as part of ENERGY STAR's Home Performance program. And not least of all, many state governments and utilities use ENERGY STAR to implement their own energy efficiency plans.

Over the past year, many citizens and elected officials have expressed their discouragement over the divisiveness that characterizes our current political climate. However, ENERGY STAR is a remarkable exception to this sentiment. Helping American families and businesses at every level, ENERGY STAR advances energy efficiency, an issue that has enjoyed decades of strong bipartisan support, and yields great economic and environmental benefits. We strongly encourage you to oppose the fee-based program proposal and instead provide ENERGY STAR with robust funding in the FY2020 appropriations process.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



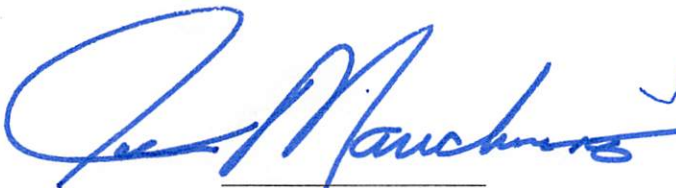
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



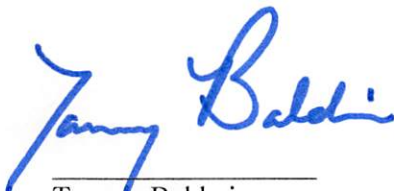
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



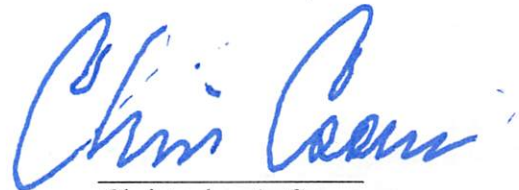
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator




Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



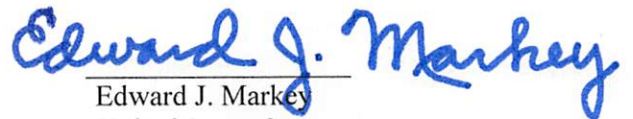
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



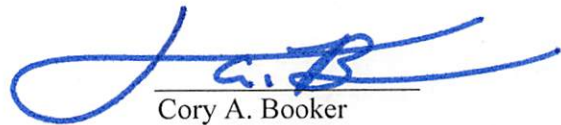
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



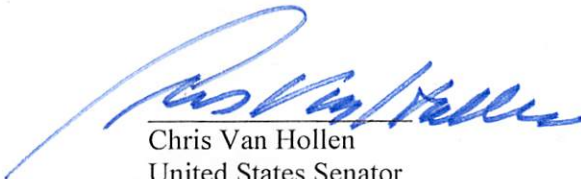
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



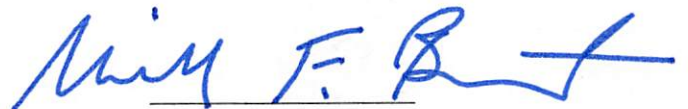
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



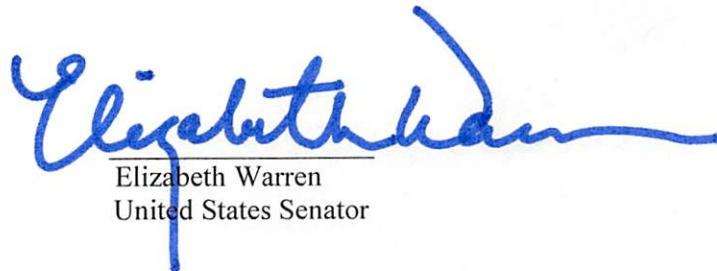
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



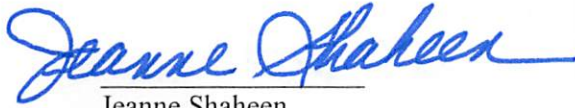
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



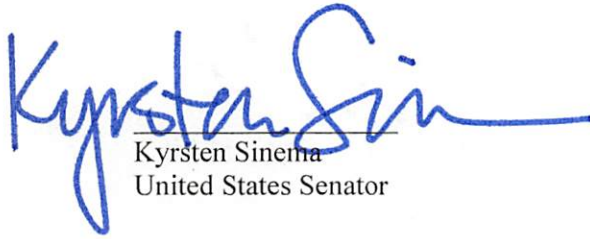
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



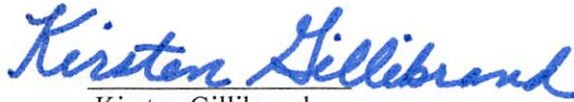
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



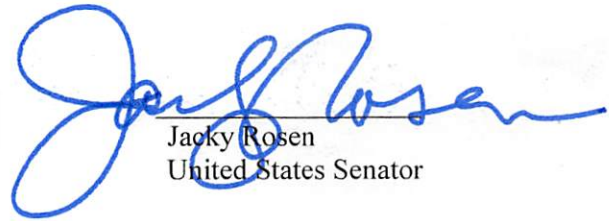
Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator