

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy,

We write today to urge your support for the full portfolio of energy efficiency programs across the federal government in the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process. These initiatives contribute invaluable resources and technical assistance to critical energy efficiency policies and programs implemented at the regional, state and local level. Without a continued federal investment in energy efficiency, the United States risks endangering national energy security, witnessing the decline of a booming domestic clean energy economy, losing ground in innovation and research to global competitors and reversing decades of progress on protecting our environment from harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy efficiency has been a cornerstone of federal energy policy for more than 40 years. Since the oil shocks of the 1970s, which signaled a new awareness of resource scarcity, leaders in Congress have worked on a bipartisan basis to pass meaningful and forward-looking legislation to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and commercial buildings, vehicles, equipment, appliances and consumer products. Without the economy-wide improvements in energy efficiency made since 1973, it is estimated that today's economy would require about two-thirds more energy than we consume now. In fact, savings from energy efficiency improvements over the last 40 years have reduced our national energy bill by an estimated \$800 billion, all while growing and expanding our economy.

Today, energy efficiency is the largest sector within the U.S. clean energy economy, employing over 2.3 million Americans nationwide—the majority of whom work for small businesses. The energy efficiency industry is robust and diverse. Its workers install smart and efficient lighting systems, manufacture state-of-the-art appliances, insulate walls and ceilings and help families and businesses lower utility bills and save money.

The majority of federal energy efficiency programs are implemented by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. One especially notable exception is the Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR® program, which is a premier public-private partnership that American homeowners, consumers and businesses have relied on when making purchases for over 25 years. Other programs, such as those managed by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, effectively

incorporate energy efficiency into those agencies' core missions for the public benefit. Across government, these programs complement one another; support regional, state and local initiatives; and serve as the key to achieving our national energy goals.

Now is not the time to abandon or weaken federal energy efficiency initiatives. Rather, we urge your continued support of these important programs that assist families and improve the global competitiveness of American businesses. We must continue to invest in our nation's most abundant energy resource – the energy that we do *not* use.

Sincerely,



JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator



CORY GARDNER
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senator



MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
United States Senator



JEFFREY MERKLEY
United States Senator



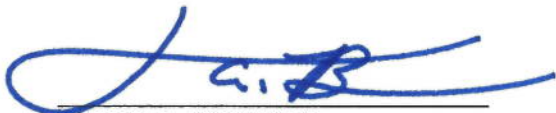
TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator



TINA SMITH
United States Senator



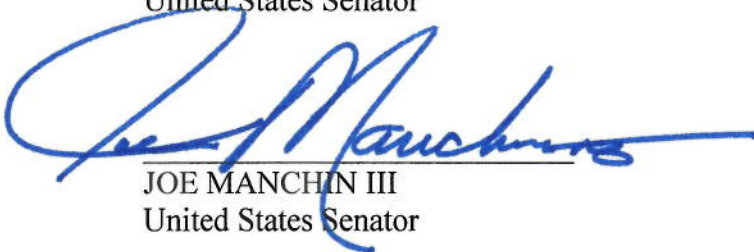
JACK REED
United States Senator



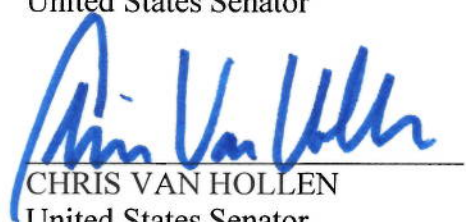
CORY A. BOOKER
United States Senator



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator



JOE MANCHIN III
United States Senator

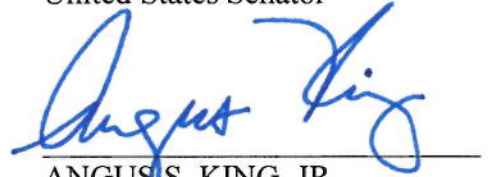


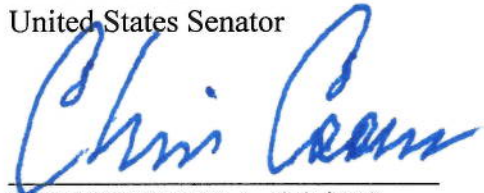
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
United States Senator


KAMALA D. HARRIS
United States Senator


SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
United States Senator


RON WYDEN
United States Senator


ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

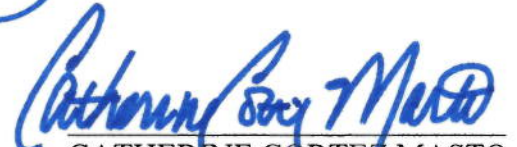

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS
United States Senator


DEBBIE STABENOW
United States Senator


MAZIE K. HIRONO
United States Senator

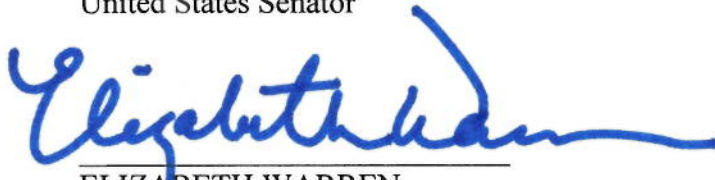

JACKY ROSEN
United States Senator


MICHAEL F. BENNET
United States Senator

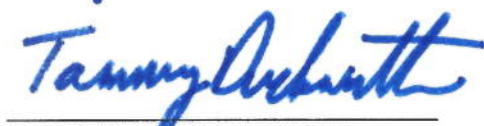

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
United States Senator


GARY C. PETERS
United States Senator


SHERROD BROWN
United States Senator


ELIZABETH WARREN
United States Senator


MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator


TAMMY DUCKWORTH
United States Senator


KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
EDWARD J. MARKEY
United States Senator

B. Sanders
BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator