S. 858 - Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act of 2015

The Energy Savings Through Public-Private Partnerships Act of 2015 (<u>S. 858</u>) was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) on March 25, 2015. It was co-sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.), and Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio). Sen. Shaheen is the Alliance Honorary Chair, and Sen. Coons and Sen. Portman are Alliance Honorary Vice-Chairs. Most recently, these provisions were included in Section 1006 of <u>S. 2012</u>, the Senate's comprehensive energy bill. A similar version of the bill was re-introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (<u>H.R. 1629</u>) by Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-III.) on March 25, 2015, after being originally introduced in July 2013 (<u>H.R. 2689</u>). It was co-sponsored by Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and two other representatives. Both Rep. Kinzinger and Rep. Welch are Alliance Honorary Board Members.

Summary

This bill would amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to promote contracts between federal agencies and private contractors to increase energy efficiency upgrades in federal facilities. The Secretary of Energy would have to assess the status of each agency's energy savings performance and utility energy service contracts, the investment value of such contracts, the comparison between guaranteed and actual energy savings for the previous year, and the plan for entering into such contracts in the coming year.

Key Provisions

Energy conservation measures would be expanded to include energy consuming devices and required support structures. Agencies would have to accurately report the operation and maintenance savings associated with modernizing or replacing systems with energy or water conservation measures. Agencies would be able to transfer or sell energy savings and apply the proceeds to fund a new performance contract. In addition, there would be two new additions to define energy savings:

- 1. The use, sale, or transfer of energy incentives, rebates, or credits from federal, state, or local governments or utilities.
- 2. Any revenue generated from a reduction in energy or water use, from more efficient waste recycling, or from additional energy generated due to more efficient equipment.