

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives Committee
on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives Committee o
on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for S. 385 and H.R. 1443 (the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2017)

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of a coalition of energy efficiency organizations, businesses, trade associations, and public interest groups, we, the undersigned, are writing to express our support for S. 385 and H.R. 1443.¹ These identical bills are more colloquially known by the names of their sponsors: “Portman-Shaheen” and “McKinley-Welch”. We urge your support for these bills and encourage you to bring S. 385 and H.R. 1443 up for consideration and a vote before your respective committees at the earliest possible time.

Our organizations support S. 385 and H.R. 1443 just as we have previous versions of this legislation. These bipartisan bills include provisions that would improve U.S. energy productivity, expand energy efficiency savings and benefits across all sectors of the economy, and address opportunities in the federal government. Passage of this legislation would create jobs in local economies across the U.S. and lower annual energy costs—year after year—for American households. More specifically, Portman-Shaheen and McKinley-Welch would create a national strategy to increase the use of energy efficiency through a model building energy code; promote the development of energy efficient supply-chains for companies; encourage the federal government to adopt and implement energy saving policies and programs; improve federal data center efficiency; support the deployment of energy efficient technologies in schools; improve commercial building efficiency; and set forth a number of other policies and initiatives.

¹ S. 385, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2017, was introduced by Senators Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) on February 15, 2017. H.R. 1443, which has the same short title, was introduced by Representatives David McKinley (R-W.Va.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) on March 9, 2017.

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Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to reduce domestic energy consumption. It also represents an important engine of economic growth in the energy sector. The U.S. Department of Energy recently reported that more than 2.2 million Americans hold energy efficiency jobs, which is over one third of the total energy sector workforce. Moreover, energy efficiency policies offer Americans protection from rising energy costs caused by instability overseas, and move us towards greater energy security.

The American public is eager for Congress to show leadership by considering and passing legislation that enjoys broad bipartisan support and would spur economic growth and create jobs. Those qualities perfectly describe Portman-Shaheen and McKinley-Welch. We respectfully urge you to support these bipartisan bills and bring S. 385 and H.R. 1443 up for committee consideration at the soonest opportunity during this session of the 115th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
Alliance to Save Energy
Ameresco
American Chemistry Council
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
ASHRAE
Building Performance Institute
Ceres
Copper Development Association
Covestro LLC
Cree
Danfoss
E4TheFuture
Efficiency First
Energy Efficient Codes Coalition
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Home Performance Coalition
Illuminating Engineering Society
Institute for Market Transformation
International Association of Lighting Designers
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Legrand
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Energy Service Companies
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Roofing Contractors Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

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Philips Lighting
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Robert Bosch LLC
Seattle City Light
Schneider Electric
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United Technologies
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

Cc: Chairwoman and Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Budget
Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services
Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure