

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 19, 2014

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request support for two key energy programs as you finalize your Fiscal Year 2016 budget proposal: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). Specifically, we urge you to ensure that your budget request provides strong funding for SEP and restores WAP to pre-Recovery Act levels.

The Weatherization Assistance Program has helped low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting and cost-effective energy efficiency improvements to their homes and reduce the burden of high energy prices for more than three decades. To date, more than 7.4 million homes have been weatherized, providing as much as \$450 in savings on a household's annual energy bill. WAP also supports thousands of high quality jobs. The National Association of State Community Services Programs estimates there are around 8,000 highly skilled jobs in the weatherization network, with countless more supported in related U.S. businesses, including materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers who make more than 90 percent of the products used in weatherization. WAP has helped the construction industry and given a boost to U.S. manufacturers and small businesses during challenging economic times. In addition, electric and gas utilities in many states depend on the WAP delivery network to carry out low-income residential efficiency initiatives, leveraging scarce resources and measurably increasing the effect of WAP in these states. As the program's funding has declined in recent years, both the state-level and private sector programs that rely on the WAP network and infrastructure have been impaired.

The State Energy Program also has a history of success working across all sectors of the economy and supporting cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. The last comprehensive study of the program by Oak Ridge National Lab showed that each federal dollar invested in SEP is leveraged by nearly \$11 in state and private funds and results in more than \$7 in annual energy savings. The SEP-supported projects and programs include a wide-range of activities, such as school energy efficiency programs, energy efficiency financing activities, industrial and commercial programs, agricultural projects, and energy efficiency programs for homeowners.

We recognize the ongoing challenges facing the discretionary budget and urge you to prioritize WAP and SEP, two well established, cost-effective programs that support jobs, contribute to the nation's economy, and help meet important goals like improving energy efficiency and lowering energy costs.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request. We look forward to working with you to ensure adequate resources to maintain effective WAP and SEP programs.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator

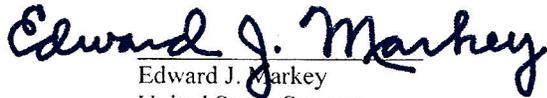
cc: Shaun Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy



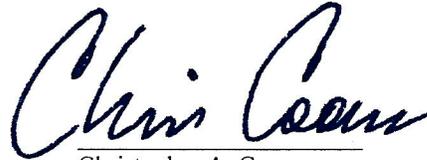
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



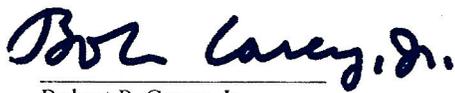
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



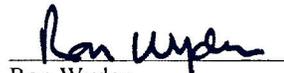
Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



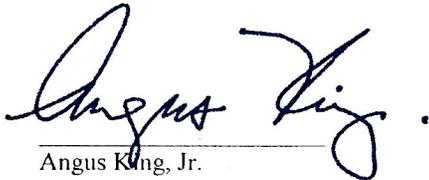
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Angus King, Jr.
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

John Walsh
United States Senator

Mary Landrieu
United States Senator

John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator

Cory Booker
United States Senator

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Tim Johnson
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono

Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator