United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We are writing to request support for two key programs within the U.S. Department of Energy: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs provide the foundation for clean energy investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save families and businesses money through improved energy efficiency, and reduce pollution. We appreciate your past support for these important programs and respectfully request that you fund WAP at $230 million and SEP at $70 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

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 7.3 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 that there are about 10,000 highly skilled jobs in the weatherization network, with countless more supported in related businesses including materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers. WAP has helped the construction industry and given a boost to American 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 resources and increasing the impact of WAP in these states. Providing $230 million for WAP formula grants to states, closer to historic funding levels, will ensure that states have the resources to support weatherization programs that help reduce the burden of high energy prices on low-income families.

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 of state and private funds and results in more than $7 in annual energy savings. SEP-supported projects and programs include a wide-range of activities, such as school and hospital energy efficiency programs, industrial and commercial programs, agricultural projects, and private sector energy innovation through business incubators and job training. We respectfully request that SEP be funded at $70 million, the same level as the President's FY2016 budget request, with at least $60 million of this amount to be provided to states by formula.

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

this is a sound investment of federal dollars and ensuring that there are adequate resources to maintain effective WAP and SEP programs should be a priority.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of these important programs.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Susan Collins
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Angus King
United States Senator

Edward Markey
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Richard Durbin
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Tom Carper
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Gary Peters
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Dan Sullivan
United States Senator