

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 5, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chair, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water  
Committee on Appropriations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water  
Committee on Appropriations  
Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to urge your continued support for two key energy efficiency and clean energy programs within the Department of Energy, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs provide the foundation for energy efficiency and clean energy investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save households and businesses money, and reduce pollution. We respectfully request that you provide increased funding for both WAP and SEP in FY 2023, as well as for the Weatherization Readiness Fund to address the challenges of retrofitting older housing stock. As you know, the President's FY 2023 budget request includes \$502 million for WAP, including \$30 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund, and \$70 million for SEP.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The reduced energy costs free up limited financial resources for essentials such as food and medicine. Throughout the history of the program, WAP has helped more than 7.4 million low-income households reduce their energy bills and saved each household an average of \$372 in annual energy costs. At a time where energy costs are skyrocketing across the country, it is more important than ever to make energy efficiency investments that will help Americans for the long-term.

WAP's benefits extend beyond cost savings. A Department of Energy study found that in one year it reduced carbon emissions by more than 2.2 million metric tons – the equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off the road. A study by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) found that children in weatherized households miss less school, improving educational outcomes. Adults miss less work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to economic growth. Families also experience fewer asthma symptoms and emergency room visits, decreasing out-of-pocket medical expenses. WAP also leverages additional non-federal funds, while supporting over 8,500 jobs and increasing national economic output by \$1.2 billion.

The State Energy Program provides technical expertise and funding to states to improve their energy security, increase their energy efficiency, and to boost economic growth. SEP combines the scientific and economic knowledge of the Department of Energy with locally led

planning to improve the energy efficiency of hospitals and schools, support clean energy projects, and boost private sector energy innovation. A study by ORNL shows that every federal dollar invested in SEP leverages over \$10 for energy-related economic development and produces over \$7 in energy savings. The same study estimates that businesses reinvesting these energy savings into job-creating opportunities leads to thousands of jobs created per year.

We appreciate your efforts to prioritize programs, like WAP and SEP, that reduce costs for American households and businesses, create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, and reduce pollution. We urge you to continue your strong support for these programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support these programs.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed  
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



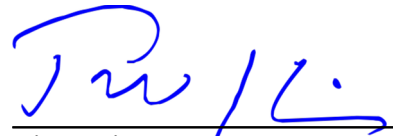
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



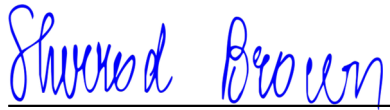
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



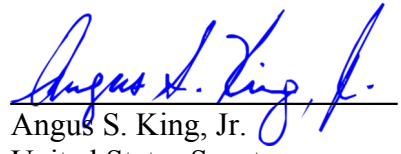
Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



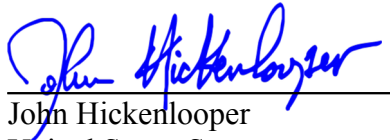
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



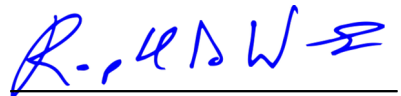
Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



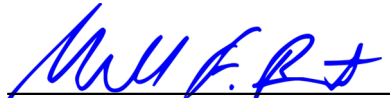
Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



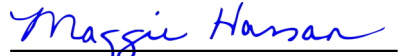
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



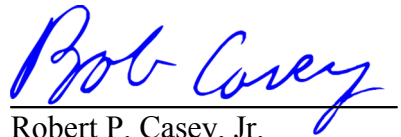
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



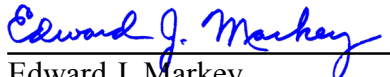
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



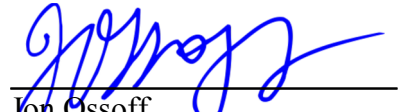
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



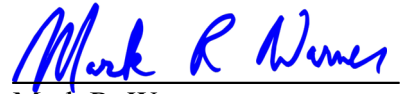
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



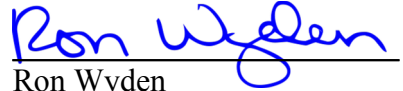
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



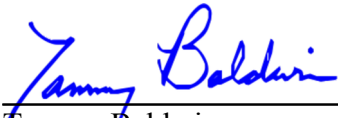
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



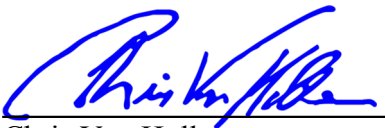
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



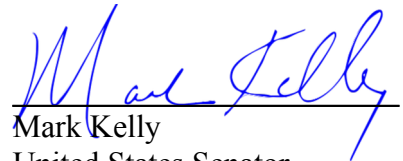
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



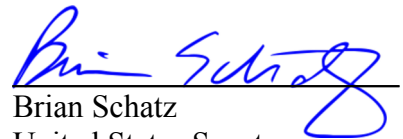
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



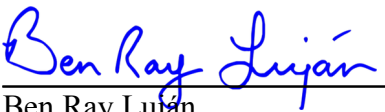
Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



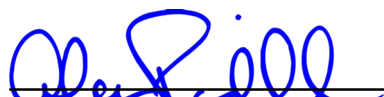
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



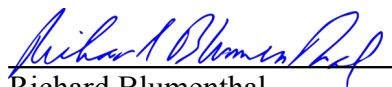
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



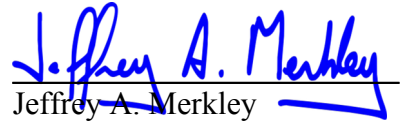
Jon Tester  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator