



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

We write to urge your continued support for 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 investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save families and businesses money through improved efficiency, and reduce pollution. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully request that you fund WAP at \$310 million and SEP at \$90 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021.

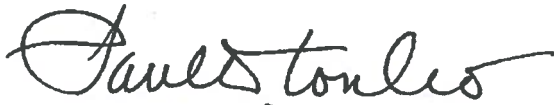
The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities improve the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up limited resources for other essentials like food and medicine. Over the past four decades, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 7.4 million low-income households. A peer-reviewed evaluation by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that the program is cost-effective by even the most conservative estimates. Each Weatherization Assistance dollar produces \$4.50 in benefits, including energy savings as well as improved health and safety. The WAP also helps workers and small businesses, directly supporting more than 8,500 jobs and supporting thousands more in related industries. We respectfully request that WAP is funded at \$310 million, a level that will ensure that all states have the resources to support their weatherization programs that help reduce the burden of high energy prices on low-income families.

The State Energy Program enables states to assist with the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, such as improving the efficiency of hospitals and schools; developing and implementing energy emergency preparedness, cyber security, and response plans; advancing energy innovation through coordination of university energy R&D activities, support for business incubators, and job training; and working with utilities and energy service companies to leverage private financing for clean energy and energy efficiency projects. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every dollar of federal funding, the SEP leverages over \$10 for energy-related economic development and produces over \$7 in energy savings. Last September, the House passed H.R. 2114 to enhance the SEP by voice vote, which included a \$90 million annual reauthorization. In October, Senate authorizers reported the bill out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that retained this funding level. We respectfully request that this program be funded at \$90 million.

We appreciate your efforts in confronting our country's fiscal challenges and your prioritization of programs that promote job growth. In this spirit, we believe that investments in programs like WAP and SEP that reduce costs for both individuals and businesses, and create greater economic opportunities in communities across the nation, should be maintained in FY 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Fiscal Year 2021 Support for DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program
and State Energy Program Signatories
March 17, 2020

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