

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2015

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to support two key energy programs, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP), as you finalize your Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget proposal. Specifically, we are writing to ensure that your budget request provides strong funding for SEP and restores WAP to pre-Recovery Act levels.

Many low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities have used WAP to make lasting and cost-effective energy efficiency improvements to their homes. WAP has helped to reduce the burden of high energy prices for more than three decades. According to the Department of Energy, to date, more than 7.4 million homes have been weatherized. Weatherization saves low-income families an average of \$250 to \$450 per year in heating, cooling, and electric costs, depending on their housing type, location, and fuel source.

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 supplied in related U.S. businesses, including materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers that 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.

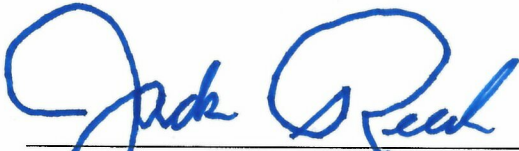
The State Energy Program also has a history of success working across all sectors of the economy and supplying cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. The last comprehensive study of the program by Oak Ridge National Lab showed that each federal dollar invested in SEP is leveraged by nearly \$1 in state and private funds and results in more than \$4.10 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 supply jobs,


contribute to the nation's economy, and help meet important goals like improving energy efficiency and lowering energy costs.

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

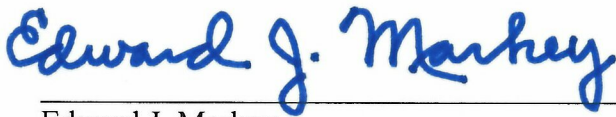
Sincerely,



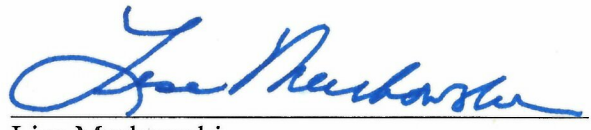
Jack Reed
United States Senator




Susan Collins
United States Senator



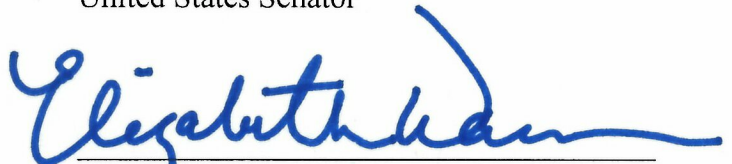
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator




Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



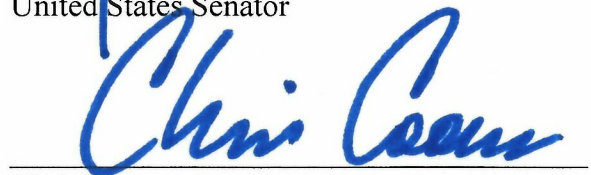
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator




Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator




Chris Coons
United States Senator



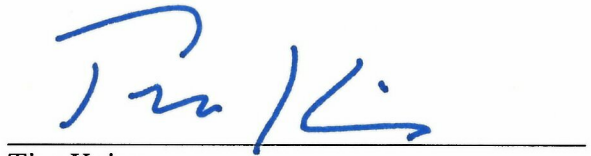
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator




Tim Kaine
United States Senator



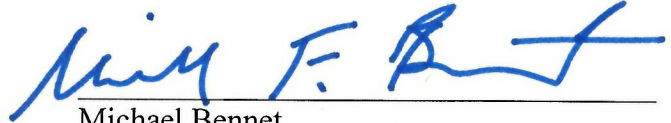
Mark Warner
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



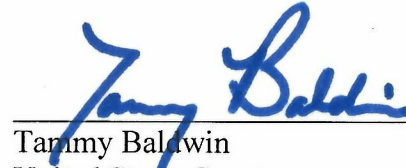
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Charles Schumer
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



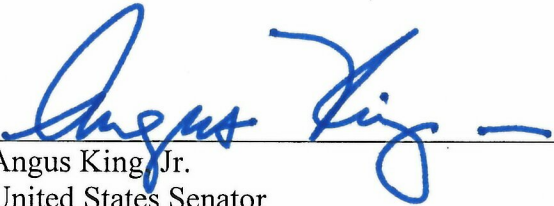
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



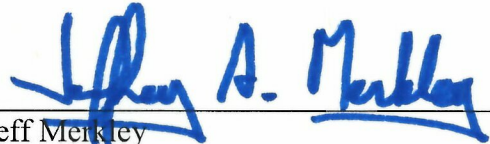
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



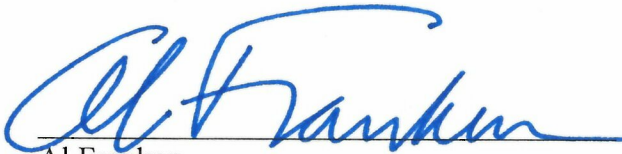
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Angus King Jr.
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



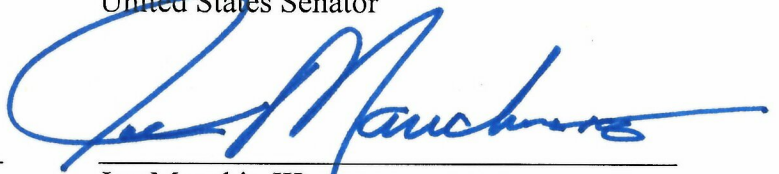
Al Franken
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



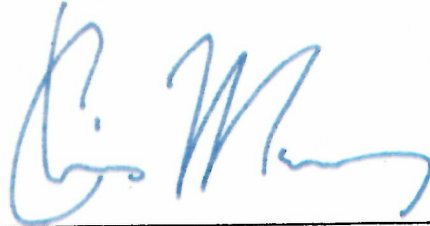
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



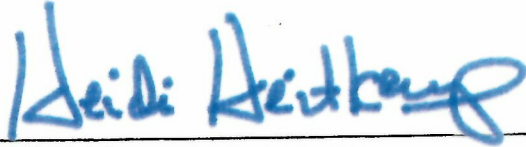
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Chris Murphy
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator