

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2013

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

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander:

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 clean energy 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 \$230 million and SEP at \$57 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes, freeing up finite resources for other essentials like food and medicine. During the past 33 years, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 7.3 million low-income households, reducing their annual energy bills by an average of \$437. Those savings can stay within the local economy and have a large "multiplier effect," spurring further job growth and economic development. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every \$1 invested in the program, weatherization returns \$2.51 in benefits to the household and society. Restoring funding for WAP back to \$230 million, closer to historic funding levels, 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 allows states to assist with the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, such as improving the efficiency of hospitals and schools, working with utilities and energy service companies to install clean energy and energy efficiency projects, and supporting private sector energy innovations through business incubators and job training. Similar to WAP, each dollar of SEP funding produces significant returns. Another study, also by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, found that every dollar of SEP federal funds are leveraged by \$10.71 of state and private funds, and result in \$7.22 in energy cost savings. Similarly, we respectfully request that this program be funded at \$57 million, the same level as included in the President's FY 2014 budget request, with at least \$50 million of this amount to be provided to states by formula.

We appreciate your efforts in confronting our country's fiscal challenges and your prioritization of programs that promote job growth and assist with the nation's economic

recovery. 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 competitiveness for our nation, should be maintained. Indeed, the Senate is on record supporting these types of investments, most recently with the passage of an amendment during the debate on the FY 2014 Senate Budget Resolution.

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

Sincerely,

Jack Reed

Tom Harkin

Max Baucus

Sherrod Brown

Eric Schickel

Shirley

Susan Collins

Richard Blumenthal

Jon Tester

Susan Auer

Rahit Menendez

Jay Byrnes

Ben Cardin

Max Baucus

Jeanne Shaheen

Amy Klobuchar

Jeffrey A. Manly

Al Franken

Chuck Sch

Rebbie Stabenow

Mark R. Lautenberg

Jim Johnson

Ron Wyden

Bob Sanders

Mary K. Hirono

Chris Men

Ms. H

Chris Coons

Paul Bevel

Angus King

Will Miller

Bob Casey, Jr.

Patrick Leahy

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Elizabeth Warren

Carl Levin

Frank Lautenberg

Tom Udall

Jerry Brown

Maria Cantwell
