

## **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives Washington, DE 20515

April 29, 2022

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, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for WAP and fund SEP at \$90 million for Fiscal Year 2023.

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 program 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 robustly funded to 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. 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 Fiscal Year 2023.

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

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr. Member of Congress

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

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