

March 30, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein:

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), and to express our deep concern with the President's budget proposal to eliminate their funding. 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 understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, and we thank the Committee for providing additional funding for both programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. We respectfully request that you provide at least \$305 million for WAP, plus increased funding for technical assistance, and \$70 million for SEP in FY 2021.

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, which has spanned more than four decades, WAP has helped more than 7.4 million low-income households reduce their energy bills. An independent study of WAP by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that each Weatherization Assistance dollar produces \$4.50 in benefits, including energy savings. Using WAP, single-family homes have saved an average of \$283 annually on energy costs.

Energy savings are only a portion of the benefits from weatherization. The same study shows that the economic and health benefits of weatherization go far beyond permanently reducing energy costs. 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 by an average of \$514. 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, install clean energy projects, and support private sector energy innovation. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory show 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 and your prioritization of programs that promote job growth and the growth of our nation's economy. We believe that investments in programs like WAP and SEP that reduce costs for American households and businesses, create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, and reduce pollution, should continue to receive funding.

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 Collins
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Doug Jones
United States Senator