March 15, 2016

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson,  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, & Related Agencies  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur,  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, & Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

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 $70 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.

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. For four decades, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 7 million low-income households, including 1 million in the past five years. A recent 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 at least $2.30 of benefit, and arguably, as much as $4.10 to the household and society. We respectfully request that WAP is funded at $230 million, the level included in the President’s FY 2017 budget request, which 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, 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. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every dollar of federal funding, the SEP leverages over $10 for energy related economic development. The SEP provides 300,000 energy efficiency technical assistance contacts with consumers and small businesses to aid them in implementing cost-effective actions. We respectfully request that this program be funded at $70 million, the same level included in the President's FY 2017 budget request.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

Richard L. Hanna  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Jerold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress
Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress  

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress  

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress  

Mark Takai  
Member of Congress  

David Scott  
Member of Congress  

Alan S. Lowenthal  
Member of Congress  

John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress  

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress  

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress  

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Elizah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bonnallo  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress