April 1, 2019

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 in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully request that you fund WAP at $270 million and SEP at $70 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

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 WAP 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 funded at $270 million, a level that 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; developing and implementing energy emergency preparedness 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. In July of 2017, the House passed legislation to enhance the SEP by voice vote, including a $90 million annual reauthorization. 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. The SEP helps consumers and small businesses in implementing cost-effective actions. We respectfully request that this program be funded at $70 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 FY 2020.

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

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

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
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Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
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Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress
Rashida Tlaib  
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Mike Levin  
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Lori Trahan  
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Jenniffer González-Colón  
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Carol D. Miller  
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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
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Ron Kind
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Tulsi Gabbard
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Zoe Lofgren
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Deb Haaland
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Jason Crow
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Jesus G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress