

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 18, 2015

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We urge you to support two key energy programs, the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP), as you finalize your Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget proposal. Specifically, we are writing to ensure that your budget request provides strong funding for SEP and restores WAP to pre-Recovery Act levels.

Many low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities have used WAP to make lasting and cost-effective energy efficiency improvements to their homes. WAP has helped to reduce the burden of high energy prices for more than three decades. According to the Department of Energy, to date, more than 7.4 million homes have been weatherized. Weatherization saves low-income families an average of \$250 to \$450 per year in heating, cooling, and electric costs, depending on their housing type, location, and fuel source.

WAP also supports thousands of high quality jobs. The National Association of State Community Services Programs estimates there are around 8,000 highly skilled jobs in the weatherization network, with countless more supplied in related U.S. businesses, including materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers that make more than 90 percent of the products used in weatherization. WAP has helped the construction industry and given a boost to U.S. manufacturers and small businesses during challenging economic times.

In addition, electric and gas utilities in many states depend on the WAP delivery network to carry out low-income residential efficiency initiatives, leveraging scarce resources and measurably increasing the effect of WAP in these states. As the program's funding has declined in recent years, both the state-level and private sector programs that rely on the WAP network and infrastructure have been impaired.

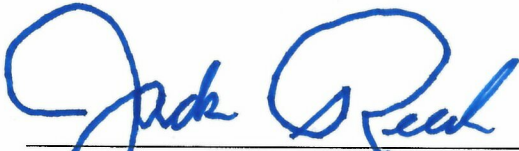
The State Energy Program also has a history of success working across all sectors of the economy and supplying cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. The last comprehensive study of the program by Oak Ridge National Lab showed that each federal dollar invested in SEP is leveraged by nearly \$1 in state and private funds and results in more than \$4.10 in annual energy savings. The SEP-supported projects and programs include a wide-range of activities, such as school energy efficiency programs, energy efficiency financing activities, industrial and commercial programs, agricultural projects, and energy efficiency programs for homeowners.

We recognize the ongoing challenges facing the discretionary budget and urge you to prioritize WAP and SEP, two well established, cost-effective programs that supply jobs,

contribute to the nation's economy, and help meet important goals like improving energy efficiency and lowering energy costs.


We look forward to working with you to ensure adequate resources to maintain effective WAP and SEP programs. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,



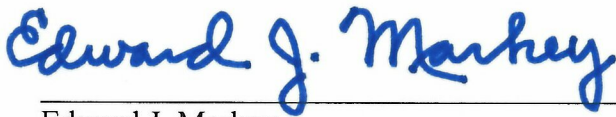
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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



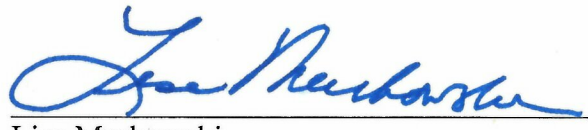
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Susan Collins  
United States Senator




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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



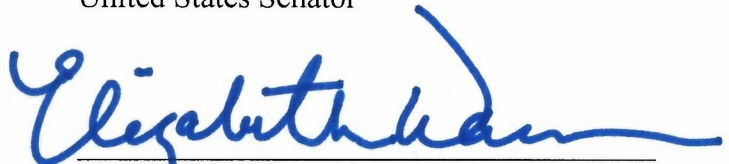
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Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator




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Patrick J. Leahy  
United States Senator



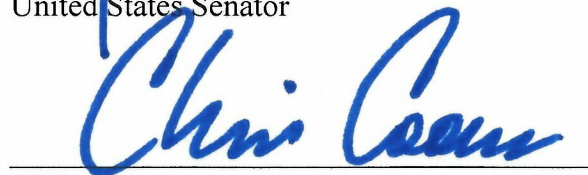
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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator




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Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



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Chris Coons  
United States Senator




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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



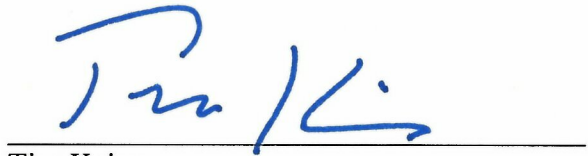
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Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator



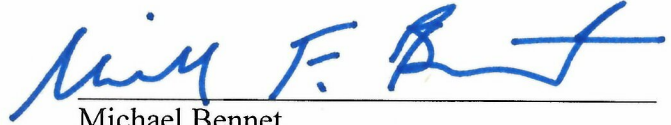
Mark Warner  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Michael Bennet  
United States Senator




Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Charles Schumer  
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



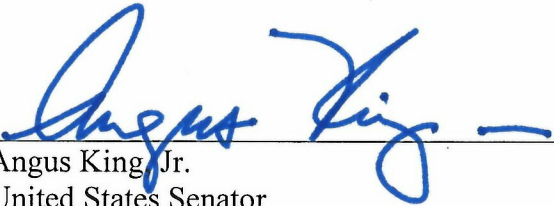
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



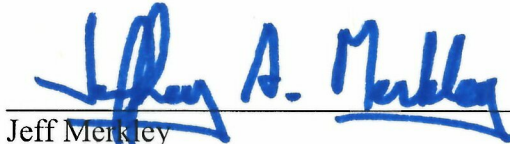
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



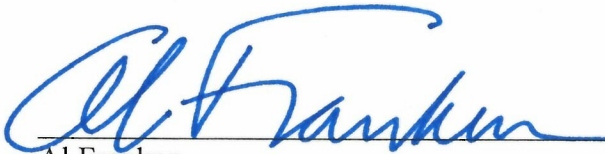
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Angus King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



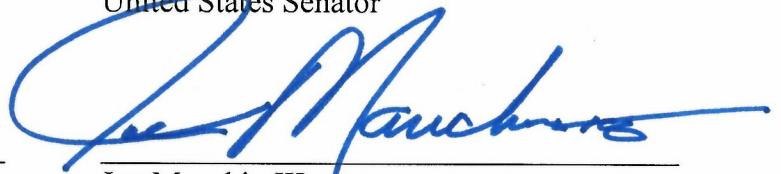
Al Franken  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

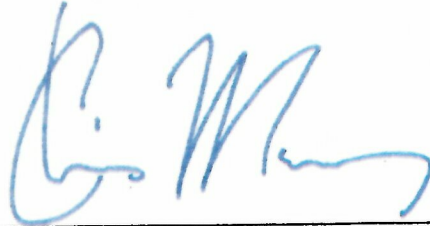


Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



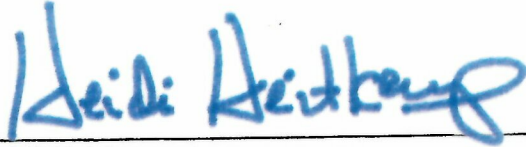
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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



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Chris Murphy  
United States Senator



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Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senator




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Gary Peters  
United States Senator



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Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



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Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator