United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2026

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Kennedy and Ranking Member Murray:

We are writing to request funding for key energy efficiency programs at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). These programs, which are leveraged across the board through public-private partnerships, have helped modernize an energy efficiency sector that employs nearly 2.4 million Americans. More can be done, and as we invest in and upgrade U.S. energy infrastructure, we must ensure that DOE has the resources it needs to continue to deliver direct savings to homeowners, consumers, and businesses.

Energy efficiency is our nation's most abundant energy resource. The energy productivity of the U.S. economy—the amount of economic output per unit of energy—has more than doubled over the past four decades. Without the energy efficiency investments made since 1980, energy consumption and emissions would have been two-thirds higher, and consumers would be paying nearly $800 billion more per year in energy costs. The importance of the U.S DOE in research, technical assistance, deployment, infrastructure development and market integration efforts that have driven gains in energy efficiency cannot be overstated. U.S. DOE energy efficiency programs provide exceptional value to American consumers and businesses, yielding benefits that far outweigh the relatively nominal outlays appropriated by Congress.

Specifically, we respectfully request FY 2027 funding for the following DOE programs, as summarized below:

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE): At least $200 million for program direction funds to increase the number of staff to support mission-critical functions. EERE promotes innovative technologies, energy efficiency, and American competitiveness through an array of programs with the overarching goal of keeping energy affordable and reliable.

Buildings Technologies Office (BTO): At least $332 million to develop innovative, cost-effective technologies, tools and solutions that help U.S. homeowners, consumers and businesses achieve peak energy efficiency performance in their buildings across all sectors of our economy. Within this account, robust funding is needed for:

- Residential Buildings Integration (RBI): DOE collaborates with the residential building industry to improve the energy efficiency of both new and existing homes. RBI develops critical technologies, tools and solutions that help U.S. consumers and businesses achieve peak efficiency performance in residential buildings across the country. RBI should continue to provide for residential grid-interactive efficient buildings (GEBs) activities and information sharing on associated technologies, costs and benefits to position American companies to lead in this area. RBI's work supports workforce development and training and has partnerships with thousands of small businesses in this sector, the construction trades, equipment, smart grid technology and systems suppliers, integrators and state and local governments. RBI should continue to support the residential workforce, including by enabling non-profit and industry trade associations to administer nationwide training coordination, promoting recruitment and retention and researching program efficiencies for workforce expansion in residential energy efficiency. The integration research, demonstration and market transformation activities of RBI are critical to drive energy affordability and cut utility bills for all Americans.

- Commercial Building Integration (CBI): The program's research, development and evaluation help advance a range of innovative building technologies and solutions, paving the way for high performing buildings that could use between 50% and 70% less energy than typical buildings. CBI should continue to provide for commercial grid-interactive efficient buildings (GEBs) activities and information sharing on associated technologies, costs, and benefits to position American companies to lead in this area. CBI works with industry, small businesses, academia, the national labs and other entities to advance energy efficiency solutions and technologies for commercial buildings. The program, which considers buildings as systems and as part of the electric grid, continues to be transformative in moving industry partners to embrace innovation.

- Efficiency Standards, Building Codes, and Test Procedures: The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) requires DOE to conduct regular reviews of appliance standards and to consider updates if they would be technologically feasible and economically justified. We request funding to ensure that DOE staff are able to undertake that work so that the program can continue delivering pocketbook savings to American families while supporting American manufacturers of high-quality products. We also request a significant increase for DOE's important support and technical assistance role in the development and implementation of building energy codes, which are adopted by states and local governments, for residential and commercial construction that reflect developments in building energy efficiency—and "lock in" savings for the life of the building.

- Emerging Technologies (ET): The program enables cost-effective, energy-efficient technologies to be developed and introduced into the marketplace. ET funds and directs applied research and development (R&D) for technologies and tools that support building energy efficiency, particularly electric technologies for a carbon free grid.

Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO): At least $215 million to drive manufacturing innovation and boost American industrial competitiveness,

particularly in material innovations and reshoring industrial capacity. AMMTO's work is central to building a secure and resilient American energy supply chain.

Industrial Technologies Office (ITO): At least $237 million to enable the research, development and demonstrations across the domestic industrial base to modernize and strengthen American industrial leadership. We also urge continued support for the Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnerships (TAPs) to provide direct technical assistance to industrial facilities and other large energy users with identifying and implementing energy saving measures that reduce manufacturer energy costs to operate and decrease strain on the grid.

Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC): Not less than $19 million to support strengthening MESC's overall performance, organization, budget, operations, human capital, and project management as the office invests in manufacturing capacity and workforce development. MESC's programs build out America's energy supply chain and catalyze private sector manufacturing investments in communities across the U.S. Funding should provide continued support for the Industrial Training and Assessment Centers (ITAC) and the associated implementation grant program, which are critical tools to advance the competitiveness of small and medium-sized manufacturing facilities across the country. By providing free, no-cost energy assessments, the ITAC program trains the next generation of industrial energy professionals while saving manufacturers on average over $140,000 in energy costs.

Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP): Funding of at least $43 million, including $20 million for the (Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies) AFFECT grant program under the Federal Energy Efficiency Fund and $2 million for the Performance Based Contract National Resource (PCNRC) Initiative. FEMP supports all agencies of the Federal government in their quest to save energy and money and reduce emissions for the American taxpayer while improving agency infrastructure and addressing deferred maintenance. FEMP is at the forefront of efforts to improve federal building energy performance, which is accomplished in part by accessing and leveraging private capital in performance contracts. This level of funding supports the AFFECT grant program, which typically leverages at least ten to one with performance contracting to address agency backlog maintenance while reducing energy and water use and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the Federal sector. FEMP's work has attracted private capital used to finance over 454 projects across two dozen agencies and resulted in approximately $8.9 billion in investments in federal energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. These improvements have generated approximately $19.38 billion in cumulative energy cost savings for the federal government and have created 63,000 job-years. Since its inception, AFFECT has leveraged $290 million in congressional funding to attract $3.8 billion in private investment, saving the government more than $137 million annually in energy costs. The Performance Contracting National Resource Center (PCNRC) is a hub for best practices and solutions for performance Contracts implemented at the federal level and in markets for municipalities and state governments, universities and colleges, K-12 schools, and hospitals.

Weatherization (WAP) and State Energy Program (SEP): We request at least $369 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, $10 million for training and technical and $30

million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund. Finally, we request at least $66 million for the State Energy Program to enhance energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives and increase energy affordability. R&D investments will continue to make emerging technologies cheaper and more accessible. DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program is particularly important because it promotes energy affordability for America's senior citizens. According to the Energy Information Administration, over 25 million American households report forgoing food or medicine to pay energy costs, while over 12 million households report being unable to use their heating or cooling equipment. Since 1976, WAP has helped make more than 7.4 million homes more efficient, saving the average recipient about $4,200 over the lifetime of their home. Each WAP 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. SEP leverages over $10 for every federal dollar invested and saves over $7 for every federal dollar invested. In addition to energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, SEP is critical for dealing with cyber security and energy emergency preparedness and response. **We recommend $22 million for the Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) for Program Direction to support successful implementation and oversight of the Office's programs such as WAP and SEP.**

U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER): **$2 million for the Office of Policy to complete a U.S. energy employment report that includes a comprehensive statistical survey to collect data, publish the data and provide a summary report, as required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.** The information collected will include data related to employment figures and demographics in the U.S. energy sector. The report presents a unique snapshot of energy efficiency employment in key sectors of the economy, including construction and manufacturing.

Energy Information Administration (EIA): **At least $145 million to continue important data collection, analysis and reporting activities of the EIA, including not less than $18 million to administer and increase the detail and frequency of the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS), the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) and the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS) as directed in Sec. 40413 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58)**. The EIA's data products ensure that Congress, federal and state governments, the private sector, and the public have access to timely and reliable energy information which inform important energy-related decisions, including market pricing. Key products include petroleum and natural gas inventory reports; short and long-term forecasts for energy markets, production and use; and trends in energy use in homes, buildings, and manufacturing. To better capture evolving national energy use trends, we strongly support an allocation of $18 million in funding for the CBECS, RECS and MECS, which are foundational for understanding and improving the energy use of sectors that account for more than two-thirds of U.S. energy consumption. This represents an increase of $5.2 million and would give EIA the resources to implement the directive in section 40413 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that required more detailed and frequent reporting of this information but did not include the needed funding.

Additionally, to prevent delays and maintain bipartisan support for FY 2027 appropriations, we oppose the inclusion of any controversial policy riders that may hinder the regular order of the appropriations process.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Peter Welch
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
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Mazie K. Hirono
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Brian Schatz
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Amy Klobuchar
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Christopher A. Coons
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Michael F. Bennet
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
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Ron Wyden
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Margaret Wood Hassan
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