# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We are writing to express strong support for critical energy efficiency-related programs managed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Increasing investment in these programs will grow good-paying jobs in the energy sector, bolster grid reliability and resilience, and put more money back in the pockets of hard working Americans.

Energy efficiency is our nation's most readily accessible strategy to increase access to low-cost energy for American families. Without the gains in energy efficiency made since 1980, the U.S. economy would today require two-thirds more energy than we currently consume. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, the cumulative savings from 1980 to 2018 to America's energy bills due to improved energy efficiency was more than $800 billion. Continued investment in energy efficiency programs can contribute to energy savings of more than $700 billion by 2050 and a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.[1]

Energy efficiency programs are also a major job producer. The U.S. energy efficiency workforce is comprised of over 2.2 million Americans, the largest share of the entire U.S. energy sector and more than all the jobs in clean and fossil energy generation combined.[2] Most of these jobs provide good compensation and cannot be shipped overseas, ensuring that future generations of Americans can pursue competitive careers in energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency alleviates grid strain through demand reduction, helping to keep the lights on during peak load and mitigate outages caused by extreme weather or attacks on our energy infrastructure. Energy efficiency also improves the nation's energy security by reducing our reliance on imported energy sources, helping the U.S. to achieve greater energy independence.

The importance of the DOE in research, technical assistance, deployment, infrastructure development, and market integration efforts that have driven gains in energy efficiency cannot be overstated. 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 2026 funding for the following DOE programs, as summarized below:

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[1] Nadel, S., and L. Ungar. 2019. Halfway There: Energy Efficiency Can Cut Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Half by 2050. Washington, DC: ACEEE. https://www.aceee.org/research-report/u1907

[2] E4TheFuture and E2. October 2023. Energy Efficiency Jobs in America – 2023. https://e4thefuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Energy-Efficiency-Jobs-in-America-2023.pdf

**Buildings Technologies Office (BTO): $399 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): $91 million for DOE to collaborate 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 operating the Buildings Upgrade Prize program to drive energy affordability and innovative energy retrofits in homes and buildings across the country. RBI should also 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): $91 million for the program's research, development, and evaluation to 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: $90 million for equipment and building standards, including $60 million for appliance standards and $30 million for the Building Energy Codes Program. DOE is responsible for setting minimum energy efficiency standards for appliances, equipment, and lighting to ensure new models continue to make progress on efficiency as technology matures. DOE plays an important support and technical assistance role in the development and implementation of building energy codes, which are adopted by states and local governments for new construction and renovations of residential and commercial buildings, that reflect developments in building energy efficiency and "lock in" savings for the life of the building. Education, training, and technical assistance have been woefully underfunded over the past several years and can be very impactful in assisting in codes adoption and effective implementation.
- Emerging Technologies (ET): $127 million for the program to enable 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.

**Industrial Programs:**

- **$250 million for Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies (AMMTO), within EERE to drive manufacturing innovation and competitiveness, particularly in material**

**innovations and building the energy technology workforce.**

- **$400 million for Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization (IEDO), within EERE to conduct work in energy intensive industries and workforce development.** This funding is necessary to support additional high-impact, applied research, development, and pilot-scale technology validation and demonstration.
    - EERE should continue its efforts promoting energy efficiency, deploying innovative technologies, and boosting American competitiveness. Additionally, the Office should continue to add expertise in important innovative technology areas identified in its research road mapping.
    - Industrial Energy Resiliency: Report on the future electricity needs of the industrial sector and work with National Labs and relevant stakeholders to develop pathways that would meet industry energy goals while preserving affordable electricity rates for consumers and grid reliability.
    - Smart Manufacturing: Support the development and adoption of smart manufacturing practices directed toward small and medium-sized manufacturers. This includes but is not limited to expanded funding for the Clean Energy Smart Manufacturing Innovative Institute (CESMII) to increase educational and technical assistance activities directed toward smart manufacturing adoption and MESC's State Manufacturing Leadership Program.
    - Industrial Process Heating Innovation: Continued research, development, and deployment by EERE within the Industrial Heatshot to promote the adoption of technologies that can dramatically boost competitiveness of American manufacturers.
    - Flex Tech: Establishment of a Flex-Tech program that provides grants to states and tribal governments partnered with educational institutions and trade associations to provide energy assessments and loans to implement identified measures at small and medium-sized manufacturers.
- **Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC): At least $113.35 million for strengthening and securing manufacturing and energy supply chains needed to modernize the nation's energy infrastructure, boost American competitiveness, and reduce strain on the electricity grid.** Discrete funding for a new MESC account should be provided and accounted for outside of the EERE account to support strengthening MESC's overall performance, organization, budget, operations, human capital, and project management as the office works to support its mission.
- **Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED): At least $180 million to deliver clean energy demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and reshoring of American manufacturing.** OCED's demonstration projects leverage over $14 billion in private investment to communities in over 20 states. The projects advance efficiency, reduce industrial pollution, and keep our domestic industrial facilities competitive with companies around the world. Investment in these communities is at risk without proper project management oversight within OCED.

**Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP): At least $70 million to provide project and policy expertise to all federal agencies, including not less than $20 million for DOE to continue its work through the Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) program under the Federal Energy Efficiency Fund and $2 million for the Performance Based Contract National Resource Initiative (PCNRC).** With minimal funding, FEMP supports all agencies of the Federal government in their mission to save energy and money 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. 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 $19.3 billion in cumulative energy cost savings for the federal government and have created 63,000 job-years.

Specified funding for AFFECT has been provided in prior fiscal years to provide small grants to federal agencies to help achieve energy savings and resilience goals. These grants are then leveraged through performance contracts, allowing agencies to utilize private finance to complete innovative and comprehensive energy and water conservation projects not otherwise possible. 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 in the federal and MUSH (i.e., municipalities and state governments, universities and colleges, K-12 schools, and hospitals) markets.

**Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): At least $442 million is recommended for WAP, including $375 million for the base Program, $15 million for training and technical assistance, and $52 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund.** R&D investments will continue to make emerging technologies cheaper and more accessible, but DOE's WAP is particularly important for bringing energy efficiency to communities and families that need it most. 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 8 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. Federal weatherization assistance also helps workers and small businesses, directly supporting more than 8,500 jobs and supporting thousands more in related industries.

**State Energy Program (SEP): At least $90 million is recommended for SEP grants.** The Department is directed not to utilize funds from the State Energy Program appropriation, either from annual appropriations or IIJA or IRA funds for technical assistance. 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. SEP is extremely flexible and is the basis for a variety of partnership programs.

**State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP):** we request the following report langauge to support successful implementation and oversight of SCEP programs: "Within available funds, the Committee recommends $22,000,000 for program direction. As such, the Committee is concerned with the reduction of mission-critical staff within SCEP and directs the office to have a minimum full time employment level of 150 to provide robust oversight and execution of grant awards."

**U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER): $2 million for the Office of Policy to complete the annual U.S. energy employment report that includes a comprehensive statistical survey to collect data, publish the data and provide a summary report.** 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): $157 million to continue important data collection, analysis, and reporting activities on energy use and consumption including the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS), the Residential Energy Consumption Survey**

**(RECS), and the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS).** Sec. 40413 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires but does not provide funding for EIA to expand data collection for the CBECS, RECS, and MECS. We strongly support increased funding for these activities, which are foundational for improving the energy efficiency of sectors that account for more than two-thirds of U.S. energy consumption. The Energy Information Administration account should provide $5 million in new funding to implement these activities.

Additionally, to prevent delays and maintain bipartisan support for FY 2026 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,

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

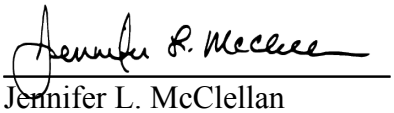
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Mary Gay Scanlon
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



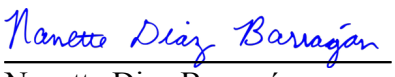
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



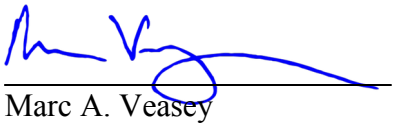
David Scott
Member of Congress



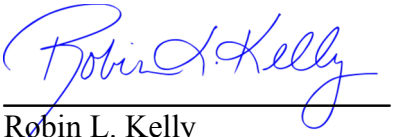
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



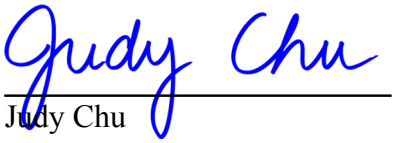
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



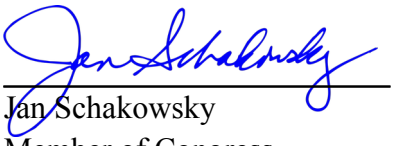
Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



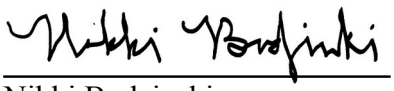
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



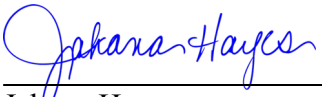
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



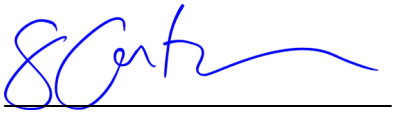
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



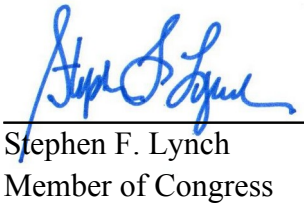
Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



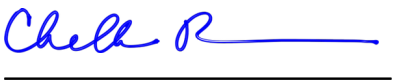
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



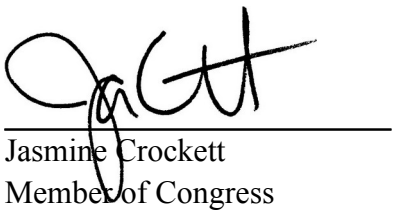
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



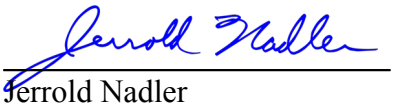
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



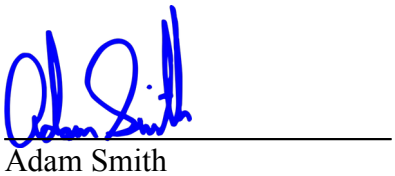
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



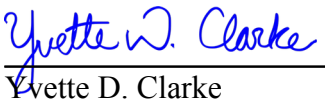
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



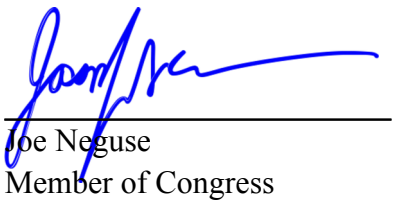
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



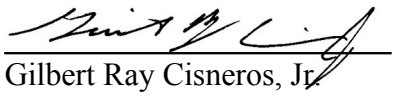
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



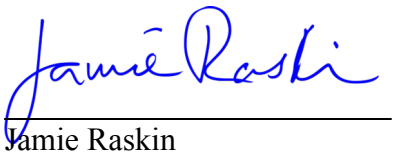
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



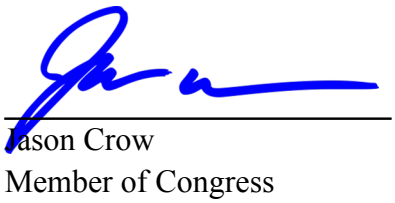
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



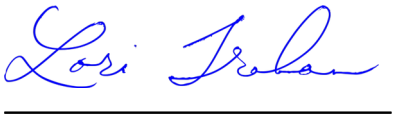
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



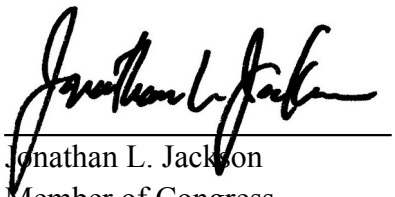
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



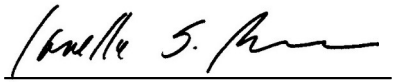
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



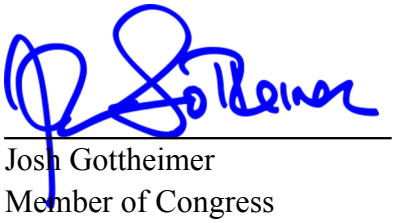
Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



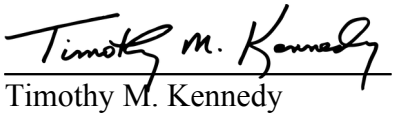
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



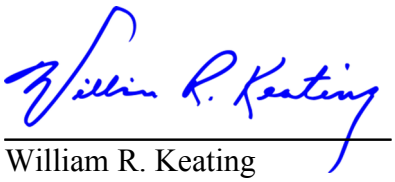
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



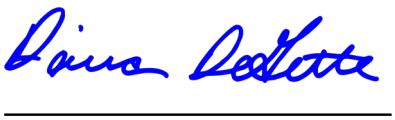
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



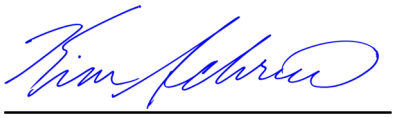
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



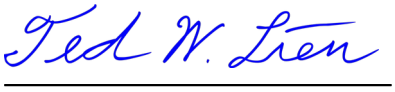
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



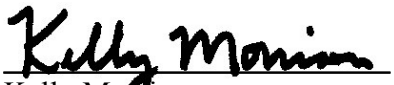
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



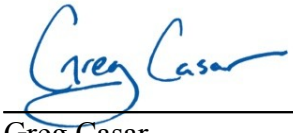
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



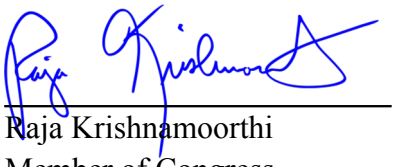
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



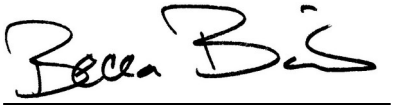
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



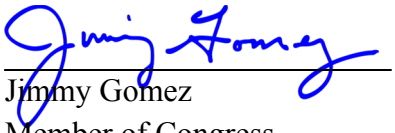
Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



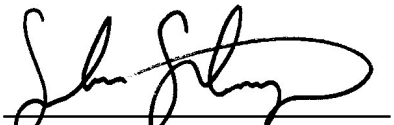
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



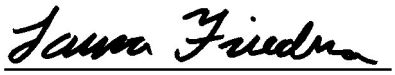
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



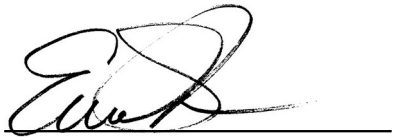
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



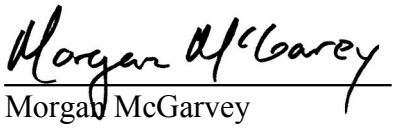
Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress