

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chair, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Feinstein and Ranking Member Kennedy:

We write to urge your continued support for two 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 energy efficiency and clean energy investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save households and businesses money, and reduce pollution. We respectfully request that you provide increased funding for both WAP and SEP in FY 2024, as well as for the Weatherization Readiness Fund to address the challenges of retrofitting older housing stock. As you know, the President's FY 2024 budget request includes \$437 million for WAP, including \$51.8 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund, and \$75 million for SEP.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The reduced energy costs free up limited financial resources for essentials such as food and medicine. Throughout the history of the program, WAP has helped more than 7.4 million low-income households reduce their energy bills and saved each household an average of \$372 in annual energy costs. At a time where energy costs are skyrocketing across the country, it is more important than ever to make energy efficiency investments that will help Americans for the long-term.

WAP's benefits extend beyond cost savings. A Department of Energy study found that in one year it reduced carbon emissions by more 2.2 million metric tons – the equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off the road. A study by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) found that children in weatherized households miss less school, improving educational outcomes. Adults miss less work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to economic growth. Families also experience fewer asthma symptoms and emergency room visits, decreasing out-of-pocket medical expenses. WAP also leverages additional non-federal funds, while supporting over 8,500 jobs and increasing national economic output by \$1.2 billion.


The State Energy Program provides technical expertise and funding to states to improve their energy security, increase their energy efficiency, and to boost economic growth. SEP combines the scientific and economic knowledge of the Department of Energy with locally led planning to improve the energy efficiency of hospitals and schools, support clean energy projects, and boost private sector energy innovation. A study by ORNL shows that every federal

dollar invested in SEP leverages over \$10 for energy-related economic development and produces over \$7 in energy savings. The same study estimates that businesses reinvesting these energy savings into job-creating opportunities leads to thousands of jobs created per year.

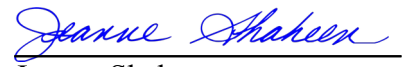
We appreciate your efforts to prioritize programs, like WAP and SEP, that reduce costs for American households and businesses, create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, and reduce pollution. We urge you to continue your strong support for these programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support these programs.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



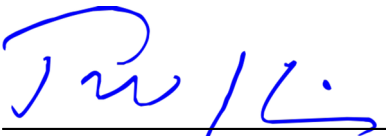
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



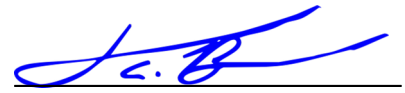
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator




John Hickenlooper
United States Senator




Tim Kaine
United States Senator



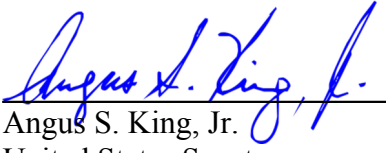
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



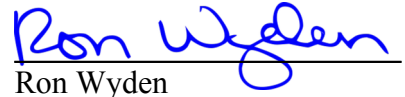
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



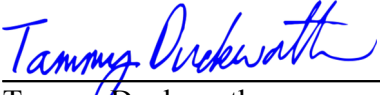
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



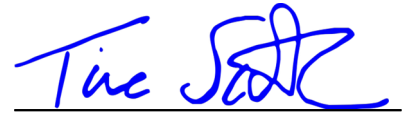
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



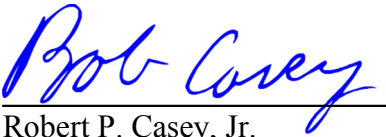
Tina Smith
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



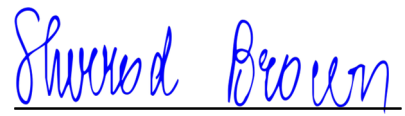
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



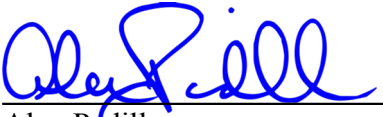
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



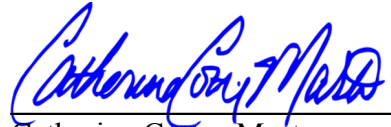
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



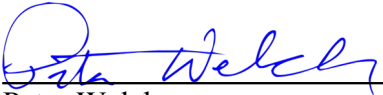
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



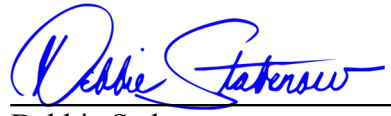
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



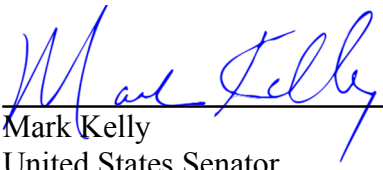
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



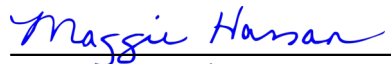
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



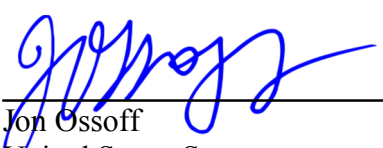
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



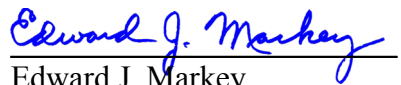
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Robert Menendez
United States Senator