

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

We are writing to request your support of key energy efficiency programs within the Department of Energy. These programs provide the foundation for the clean energy investments that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the clean energy economy, grow jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, protect our environment, and improve the comfort and lower energy costs of peoples' homes and workplaces. We respectfully request that you fund the State Energy Program (SEP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) at \$50 million and \$210 million for FY 2013, respectively.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled by improving the energy efficiency of their housing. Less burdened by high energy bills, these families have additional funds for other essentials. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every dollar spent, WAP returns \$2.51 in energy and non-energy benefits to the household and society. WAP can reduce annual utility bills by as much as 35%, a dollar saving of \$437 or more annually. Funding this year – at \$210 million – will ensure that states have the resources to meet this important goal.

The State Energy Program (SEP) allows states to take on a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects – including: starting rebate programs; encouraging the purchase of energy-saving appliances; making efficiency improvements of hospitals and schools; and working with utilities and energy service companies to install wind, solar and energy efficiency projects. Like WAP, each dollar of SEP funding produces significant returns. A study by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that \$7.22 in energy costs were saved annually for each dollar of SEP funds. Also, each \$1 of SEP federal funds are typically leveraged by \$10.71 of state and private funds. We respectfully request that this program be funded at \$50 million, \$1 million above the President's request of \$49 million, all in base formula appropriations.

Energy efficiency is our cheapest, fastest, and cleanest energy resource and a necessary solution to address rising energy prices, energy security, economic development and air pollution. Energy efficiency already is the equivalent of any of the nation's other energy resources: since 1973, we save more energy each year from efficiency measures than we get from any single energy source, including oil.

In the months ahead it will be necessary for you to make difficult choices regarding budget priorities for FY 2013 appropriations bills. We believe that investments in programs that reduce costs for both individuals and businesses, and create greater economic prosperity and energy security for our nation, should be maintained. Energy efficiency programs are a source of savings that in turn are spent in other sectors of the economy, and it does not make sense to cut these programs, especially with our energy security imperiled by the turbulence in the Middle East.

We recognize that the subcommittee will face difficult decisions, but we believe investment in these programs will deliver substantial economic, security and environmental returns for the entire nation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul Tonko

Jim Langston

Shelley Berkley

Ben R. Lujan

Joe VanFon

William R. Keating

John C. Coatsworth

Glenn Dornett

Michael H. Michael

Bob Peter

Dave Lubak

Mazie K. Hiroo

Michael E. Capron

Samuel J. Pitt

Bob Pitt

Niki Targas

Raul M. Hjaln

Loul Blumman

Peter Welch

Tin Ryan

Hansen Clarke

John Lee

Mico Quigley

Jim McDevitt

Fewers

Butterfield

Jan Klatz

Charles B. Rangel

Stephen J. Spink

Cornie Brown

Jewold Nadler

Carole M. Maloney

Suzanna Bonanni

Mal Ren

Ma H. J.

John Long

C.A. Dutch Pippesdurger

Wihhi

Jard Paul

Johnaramendi

Rud Holt

Stone Che

Vanja DeLette

John P. Sarter

Dennis J. Kerevich

Stuart

Brian Stigme

Louise M. Slaughter

Zosa DeLamo

T. Hahn

Erin Quina

For Kind

Keith Ellin