April 27, 2018

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for ENERGY STAR® in Fiscal Year 2019

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

We, the undersigned organizations and businesses, write today to express our strong support for the ENERGY STAR® program. This voluntary partnership program—which includes ENERGY STAR Buildings and Plants, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR for existing homes and certified new homes, and ENERGY STAR for Small Business, as well as ENERGY STAR labeled products—helps businesses, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, homeowners, and consumers save money by investing in energy efficiency. ENERGY STAR accomplishes several highly desirable goals at once: it helps consumers reduce high energy bills, promotes economic growth by stimulating investment in new technology, reduces pollution through cost-effective measures, and helps ensure the reliability of our electric system by reducing peak demand. We urge you to provide the administration clear direction about the need to continue ENERGY STAR—without resorting to an unnecessary transition to a “fee-based” model that would erode its integrity—and appropriate $46 million to fund the program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

ENERGY STAR has a proven track record of success and is extremely cost-effective. Today, ENERGY STAR enjoys brand awareness of about 90%, which makes it the most widely recognized symbol for energy efficiency. For every incremental dollar Americans invested in energy efficiency under ENERGY STAR, they reduced their energy bills by an average of $4.50. In 2015 alone, American consumers and businesses saved over $34 billion with the help of ENERGY STAR. Since 1992, ENERGY STAR has helped families and businesses save $430 billion on utility bills, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2.7 billion metric tons. Through brand recognition, information and positive publicity, the ENERGY STAR program has
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provided the catalyst for many consumers, homeowners, businesses, and state and local governments to invest in energy efficiency.

ENERGY STAR serves broad constituencies across every state in the country, working with over 16,000 partners. In the energy efficiency sector, 2.2 million Americans work in whole or in part on the design, manufacture, and installation of ENERGY STAR products and under ENERGY STAR programs. ENERGY STAR includes over 1,800 manufacturing partners of over 70 different product categories, who sold more than 300 million qualified products in the U.S. in 2015. About 45% of the commercial building floor space in the U.S. has been benchmarked for tracking and analyzing energy consumption using ENERGY STAR’s Portfolio Manager. ENERGY STAR also counts more than 3,100 home builder partners who constructed almost 1.8 million certified new homes since 1995. In 2015, families living in ENERGY STAR certified homes saved over $625 million on utility bills, while 89,000 households hired 1,600 contractors to implement improvements and whole-house retrofit projects with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. Utilities and states across the country—including 45 local sponsors of Home Performance programs—use ENERGY STAR in their own energy efficiency programs and rely on it to reliably and affordably meet their energy needs.

Unpredictable energy costs and growing consumer and business demand make today’s investments in energy efficiency ever more vital to America’s energy security. It is important to emphasize that ENERGY STAR is a voluntary program that works with business and helps them with brand recognition. We believe that the wide range benefits of ENERGY STAR, realized across the entire U.S. economy, make it worthy of your support in FY2019.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
Alliance for Water Efficiency
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Institute of Architects
APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities
ASHRAE
Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
Building Performance Institute
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Chelan County Public Utility District
Clean Water Action Connecticut
Covestro LLC
Cree
Daikin U.S. Corp.
Danfoss
The Dow Chemical Company
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E4TheFuture  
Efficiency First  
Elevate Energy  
Energy and Resource Solutions  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Green Business Certification, Inc.  
Home Performance Coalition  
Ingersoll Rand  
Institute for Market Transformation  
Intertek  
Johnson Controls  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
National Association for State Community Services Programs  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
National Housing Trust  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nest  
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation  
Philips Lighting  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Samsung Electronics America  
Seattle City Light  
The Stella Group, Ltd.  
U.S. Green Building Council  
UL LLC  
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation