

March 29, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy  
and Water Development  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Simpson, Ranking Member Kaptur, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Feinstein:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing in support of critical energy efficiency programs administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. These programs return benefits and savings to American homeowners, consumers, and businesses many times greater than the public's investment. Furthermore, these programs, often through public-private partnerships, have helped develop an energy efficiency sector that accounts for 2.2 million jobs. We urge you to hold the line on funding and ensure that these programs have the resources necessary to continue contributing to improved energy efficiency in our nation's buildings and infrastructure and increased economic and energy productivity.

Energy efficiency is our nation's most abundant energy resource. Without the gains in energy efficiency made since 1973, the U.S. economy would today require 60% more energy than we currently consume. Between then and today, U.S. gross domestic product has tripled while energy consumption has only risen by about 40%. The importance of DOE programs in research, technical assistance, and market integration efforts that have driven gains in energy efficiency cannot be overstated. DOE energy efficiency programs provide an exceptional value to American consumers and businesses, yielding benefits that far outweigh the relatively nominal outlays appropriated by Congress. As our society grows ever more dependent on energy to power our daily lives, now is not the time to abandon or shortchange the important work carried out by U.S. DOE. To that end, we respectfully request FY2019 funding for the following DOE programs, as summarized below.

**Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO)**

- **We recommend \$305 million to enable the research, development, demonstration and deployment of industrial energy efficiency and advanced manufacturing technologies that will keep U.S. companies competitive in international markets and support jobs in local communities.**
- AMO is a key component of many public-private partnerships that leverage federal investment in high-performance computing, advanced materials, and smart manufacturing. Transfer of these technologies to the private sector is critically important to sustained international competitiveness of the nation's small and mid-size manufacturers. We support funding for the Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, Industrial Assessment Centers, Combined Heat and Power Technical

Assistance Partnerships, and the deployment of energy efficient manufacturing technologies and practices, such as smart manufacturing.

### **Building Technologies Office**

- **We recommend \$250 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:
  - **Emerging Technologies (ET)**: The program supports applied research and development (R&D) for technologies, systems, and models that contribute to reducing energy consumption. ET is helping to meet this goal by enabling cost-effective, energy-efficient technologies and accelerating the adoption of these technologies into the marketplace.
  - **Residential Buildings Integration (RBI)**: DOE collaborates with the residential building industry to improve the energy efficiency of both new and existing homes. RBI 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. By developing, demonstrating, and deploying cost-effective solutions, the program, by 2025, aims to reduce the energy use for space conditioning and water heating in single-family homes by 40% from 2010 levels.
  - **Commercial Building Integration (CBI)**: The program's research, development, and evaluation helps 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 works with industry, small businesses, academia, the national labs and other entities to advance energy efficiency solutions and technologies for commercial buildings.
  - **Efficiency Standards, Building Codes, and Test Procedures**: 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 as well as updating test procedures to reflect product improvements, particularly Internet connectivity. DOE plays an important support and technical assistance roles in the development and implementation of building energy codes, which are adopted by states and local governments, for new residential and commercial construction that reflect developments in building energy efficiency—and “lock in” savings for the life of the building.

### **Federal Energy Management Program**

- **We recommend \$36 million to provide project and policy expertise to all federal agencies, helping them meet Congressional and Executive energy management goals, such as reducing waste in federal agency energy use, spurring innovation and the commercialization of efficient technologies.**

### **Weatherization and Intergovernmental Activities**

- **We recommend \$321 million, and within this account, we request funding allocations for the following priorities, including \$248 million (in addition to funds for technical assistance) for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and \$70 million for the State Energy Program (SEP).**
- These programs support EE and clean energy technologies and practices in partnership with state, local, and territorial governments. WAP enables states to modernize residential infrastructure while reducing the energy burden on American families. SEP defers to the governors all decisions on allocating resources provided by DOE to meet their states' priorities such as energy emergency planning and response and energy related economic development.

### **Vehicle Technologies Program**

- **We recommend \$337.5 million to pursue advanced efficiency technologies for light- and heavy-duty vehicles and transportation system efficiency.**
- Innovative programs such as SuperTruck, Energy Efficient Mobility Systems, and Advanced Engine and Fuel Technologies play a crucial role in achieving U.S. leadership in the rapidly emerging areas of advanced clean vehicles and sustainable mobility. DOE's Vehicle Technologies Office Battery and Electrification Technologies R&D programs have helped drive electric vehicle costs down faster than anticipated and contribute to the AMO's Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative.

### **Energy Information Administration**

- **We recommend \$135 million to continue important data collection, analysis and reporting activities on energy use and consumption including the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey and the Residential Buildings Energy Consumption Survey.**
- Additional data is also needed on LEDs (light-emitting diode bulbs and fixtures), commercial building codes, and transmission.

**We also encourage you to once again to include clear direction to DOE to obligate funds consistent with Congressional intent and in a timely manner.** At least twice in 2017, programs under the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee experienced confusion around timing and delays: DOE was slow to disburse WAP funding in June and the Governmental Accountability Office notified Congress in December of an impoundment of another clean energy program (B-329092). Specifically, we request the addition of the following language, which builds upon the approved text in S. Rept. 115-113 (115th Congress), at the end of the "Early-Stage Research and Development" paragraph for FY2019:

- "... Building energy efficiency programs are a critical element in energy emergency preparedness and response, and physical and cyber security. The Committee expects all appropriated funds provided for later stage research and development activities to be obligated according to the Committee's intent and in a timely manner."

The U.S. is in the midst of a transition to a truly modern, integrated power grid and dynamic energy sector. DOE energy efficiency programs will be a critical driver and catalyst for new technology and innovation during this important time. As we invest in and upgrade to an energy

infrastructure worthy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Congress should ensure that U.S. DOE has the resources it needs to ensure that we build cost-effectively and energy- and water-efficiently—to avoid creating waste in the first place. We urge the Subcommittee to support these important energy efficiency programs at DOE in FY2019.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy  
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency  
Alliance to Save Energy  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy  
ASHRAE  
Building Performance Institute  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy  
Cree  
E4TheFuture  
Efficiency First  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Green Business Certification, Inc.  
Home Performance Coalition  
Illuminating Engineering Society  
Ingersoll Rand  
Institute for Market Transformation  
Knauf Insulation  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
National Association for State Community Services Programs  
National Association of Energy Service Companies  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Philips Lighting  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Practical Energy Solutions  
The Stella Group, Ltd.  
U.S. Green Building Council  
Vermont Energy Investment Corporation