



HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS COALITION

--www.HPBCCC.org--

November 10, 2011

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman, Energy & Water Development
Appropriations Subcommittee

Senator Lamar Alexander
Ranking Republican, Energy & Water Development
Appropriations Subcommittee

Senator Richard Durbin
Chairman, Financial Services and General
Government Appropriations Subcommittee

Senator Jerry Moran
Ranking Republican, Financial Services and General
Government Appropriations Subcommittee

Support for Fiscal Year 2012 Funding for DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and the Energy Information Administration

Dear Senators:

The undersigned organizational members of the High Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition (HPBCCC) urge you to support strong fiscal year 2012 funding for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) in the Energy & Water Development-Financial Services and General Government-Department of State appropriations bill (H.R. 2354). Specifically, we request the following FY 2012 funding levels:

EERE: \$1,795,641,000

EIA: \$105,000,000

The HPBCCC is a private sector coalition that provides support and guidance to the High Performance Building Caucus of the U.S. Congress, and seeks to heighten awareness and inform policymakers about the major impact buildings have on our health, safety and welfare, and the opportunities to design, construct and operate high performance buildings that reflect our concern for these impacts. Fundamental to these concerns include protecting life and property; developing novel building technologies; facilitating and enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness; increasing energy efficiency in the built environment; assuring buildings have minimal climate change impacts and are able to respond to changes in the environment; and supporting the development of private sector standards, codes and guidelines that address these concerns.

The request of \$1,795,641,000 for EERE would neither increase nor decrease funding for this office, as compared with FY 2011. EERE supports several programs of critical importance, need and use by the building industry, including the Building Technologies Program, State Energy Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program. Without this level of funding, opportunities to accelerate and promote building energy efficiency may be lost, resulting in unnecessary waste and expense at a time when Americans can least afford it.



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Both the House and Senate have recommended \$105,000,000 for EIA and, similar to EERE, EIA provides several unique services of significant importance to the U.S. building industry. One program administered by EIA deserving of particular attention is the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS). Without this funding level, a new CBECS will not be conducted, and the building industry will be forced to rely on data that is nearly a decade old.

Below are descriptions of the Building Technologies Program, State Energy Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, and CBECS, the purpose of which is to help deepen your understanding of the need for the requested EERE and EIA FY 2012 funding levels.

Sincerely,

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Inc. (ASHRAE)

AEC Science & Technology

Alliance to Save Energy (ASE)

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC)

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

Association of Energy Engineers (AEE)

Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI)

Ecobuild America

EIFS Industry Members Association

Green Building Initiative (GBI)

Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)

Ingersoll Rand

International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)

International Code Council (ICC)

International Facility Management Association (IFMA)

Johnson Controls

LonMark International

Malachite LLC

McQuay International

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Portland Cement Association (PCA)

Rinnai America Corporation

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc (SMACNA)

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)

Standards Associates

Sustainable Building Industry Council (SBIC)

The Stella Group, Ltd.

Tile Roofing Institute

U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)



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UL Environment

U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Building Technologies Program

In partnership with the buildings industry, the Building Technologies Program develops, promotes and integrates energy technologies and practices to make buildings more efficient and affordable. The Building Technologies Program accelerates the availability of highly efficient building technologies and practices through research and development; increases the minimum efficiency of buildings and equipment through the promotion of model building efficiency codes and the promulgation of national lighting and appliance standards; and encourages the use of energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies and practices in residential and commercial buildings through activities such as Better Buildings, the ENERGY STAR partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Builder's Challenge¹.

State Energy Program

The State Energy Program (SEP) provides financial and technical assistance to states through formula and competitive grants. States use their formula grants to develop state strategies and goals to address their energy priorities. Competitive grant solicitations for the adoption of energy efficiency/renewable energy products and technologies are issued annually based on available funding. SEP emphasizes the state's role as the decision maker and administrator for the program activities within the state. The energy offices in each state and territory are a vital resource for delivering energy benefits, addressing national energy goals and coordinating energy-related emergency preparedness across the nation².

According to an Oak Ridge National Laboratory study, for every federal dollar invested in SEP almost \$11 is leveraged, and over \$7 in energy savings are realized.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Funds are used to improve the energy performance of dwellings of needy families using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry. DOE provides funding to states, U.S. overseas territories and Indian tribal governments, which manage the day-to-day details of the program. These governments, in turn, fund a network of local community action agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local governments that provide these weatherization services in every state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and among Native American tribes.

The energy conservation resulting from these efforts of state and local agencies helps our country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and decrease the cost of energy for families in need while improving the health and safety of their homes. During the past 33 years, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 6.4 million low-income households. Families receiving weatherization services see their annual

¹ White House Office of Management and Budget. "Detailed Budget Estimates by Agency: Department of Energy".

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2012/assets/doe.pdf>.

² U.S. Department of Energy, Weatherization & Intergovernmental Program. "State Energy Program".

<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/sep.html>.



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energy bills reduced by an average of about \$437, depending on fuel prices. Because the energy improvements that make up weatherization services are long lived, the savings add up over time to substantial benefits for weatherization clients and their communities, and the nation as a whole³.

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Administered by the U.S. Energy Information Administration within DOE, the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) is a nationally representative survey of commercial building energy consumption and expenditures, and their energy-related characteristics in the United States.

The Survey has been conducted about once every four years. “Commercial buildings” in the CBECS context includes all buildings in which at least half of the floor space is used for a purpose that is not residential, industrial, or agricultural; thus it includes building types that might not traditionally be considered “commercial,” such as schools, correctional institutions and buildings used for religious worship.

The most recent CBECS data available are from the 2003 edition of the Survey. The 2007 data are flawed and unusable due to data collection errors that have since been corrected for the 2011-2012 edition of the Survey. Work on the 2011-2012 CBECS has been halted due to appropriations reductions in FY 2011 to EIA.

CBECS data form the basis for understanding patterns of energy use, informing the decisions of the industry and key policymakers and government programs. CBECS data are used by many federal and private sector programs in their efforts to promote building efficiency, including: The ENERGY STAR Buildings program; Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Existing Buildings; Green Globes® (for New and Existing Buildings); ASHRAE’s Building Energy Quotient (Building eQ) building energy labeling program; and many others, which are all founded on performance comparisons with CBECS information. CBECS data are also used by federal agencies and national laboratories to help identify and prioritize opportunities to increase building efficiency.

³ U.S. Department of Energy, Weatherization & Intergovernmental Program. “Weatherization Assistance Program”.
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/wap.html>.