

November 24, 2015

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the undersigned trade associations, companies and organizations we urge you to include substantial energy efficiency provisions in any end-of-the-year legislative package that addresses energy-related, funding, tax and authorization policies. Using less energy, regardless of source, is good public policy.

After years of efforts to move energy efficiency legislation, it is vital that the energy legislation that passes Congress include provisions that will make a major difference in the way America uses energy. These include not only the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act but also enhancements such as reauthorization of the State Energy and Weatherization Assistance Programs (including program updates), smart building and smart manufacturing provisions, the Residential Energy Savings Act (loan program for residential buildings), the Energy Productivity Innovation Challenge (grants to states for policy changes leading to additional efficiency), and E-Access, (provides consumers information about their energy use). The attached analysis by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy shows positive energy and cost savings as well as job creation attributable to the suite of energy policies listed above. Any policy bill short of these provisions would miss the opportunity to save vast amounts of energy as well as money for consumers and the Federal government.

Furthermore, the buildings code provisions included in the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act as well as the Senate Committee passed comprehensive bill have been under consideration for several years and many compromises were made in developing the current version. Therefore, Congress should pass them as they are and resist the recent efforts to try to roll back the language and worse, reverse positive codes implementation in states. The SAVE Act is also a bi-partisan bill that would allow, but not mandate, the use of energy efficiency as a factor in mortgage underwriting. Furthermore, the standards program, going back to President Reagan, has dramatically reduced America's energy use and the appliance standards legislation is based on consensus, and debates about standards levels should be left to an analysis-based notice and comment process.

If an end-of-year package includes funding bills, they must sufficiently fund the Department of Energy's energy efficiency research, development, and demonstration programs. Sufficient funding should also be allocated to the Energy Star program at the Environmental Protection Agency, as this program allows companies to voluntarily offer, and consumers to purchase, products that save energy and money.

Should tax legislation also be considered in a final package, we urge Congress to extend for at least three years the tax incentives for energy efficient new homes, existing homes and commercial buildings, but including some updates to maximize market impact. While having a relatively small impact on the Treasury, these provisions have a very large positive impact on consumers' pocketbooks as well as on our overall national energy use and costs.

As you consider legislative opportunities over the next few months, we would encourage you to take the above opportunities to reduce waste, save consumers money, and create American jobs.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
ASHRAE
Association of Energy Engineers
EcoThermalFilters
Efficiency First
Elevate Energy
Energy Future Coalition
Energy Innovation Business Council
Environmental Entrepreneurs
Home Performance Coalition
International Association of Lighting Designers
Lime Energy
Michigan Agri-Business Association
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Energy Service Companies
National Association of State Energy Officials
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Schneider Electric
U.S. Green Buildings Council

Enclosure: ACEEE 2015 Federal Energy Efficiency Legislative Savings and Jobs Fact Sheet

CC: Hal Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Kevin Brady, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
Sander Levin, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee
Fred Upton, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee