

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid:

We write to express our strong support for amendment #3115, the American Energy Efficiency Act as an amendment to S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015. This amendment, introduced by Senator Franken, would establish a national energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) to be administered individually by each state. An EERS establishes energy saving targets that electric and natural gas utilities must meet, with the target slowly rising over time. Utilities meet these targets by offering local programs to help their customers save energy.

Currently, 25 states have such standards. They have proven to be effective energy savers and highly cost effective: the cost to utilities averages less than 3 cents per kilowatt-hour saved, and thus the benefits of these programs are often two to three times their cost. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that a national EERS would save a total of 128 quadrillion Btu of energy for programs implemented through 2040—in addition to what the states are already saving. That is more than the total energy use by the United States in a year.

Energy efficiency is an energy resource; it can help all homeowners and businesses meet their energy needs, and help utilities create resilient and cost-effective energy systems. More than half of the energy used today to power our economy is wasted, which represents an enormous opportunity for achieving savings and extracting gains to the energy productivity of our economy. Nine in ten likely voters support energy efficiency as a solution to energy challenges according to a poll by the National Electrical Manufacturers (NEMA) and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). The potential savings and support warrant a more substantial federal effort for energy efficiency.

S. 2012 was approved by the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with bipartisan support, under the leadership of Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell with a strong energy efficiency title. We encourage inclusion of the American Energy Efficiency Act in S. 2012 to build on this foundation and capitalize on the full potential energy efficiency has to offer, saving consumers money and energy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
Conservation Law Foundation
E4 The Future
Efficiency First
Environment America
Environmental & Energy Study Institute
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Home Performance Coalition
Institute for Industrial Productivity
Institute for Market Transformation
League of Conservation Voters
National Association of Energy Service Companies
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Pew Charitable Trusts
PSR
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
Sierra Club
United States Green Building Council
Union of Concerned Scientists

cc: Chairwoman and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources