



The Honorable Anna Eshoo
27 Independence Ave SE,
Washington, DC 20003

February 6, 2017

Dear Representative Eshoo,

We are writing to thank you for introducing “The Energy Efficient Government Technology Act” (H.R. 1268). By encouraging the use of energy-efficient technologies in government data centers, H.R. 1268 will help advance energy sustainability and economic stability.

We are writing to highlight the potential for combined heat and power to increase efficiency in data centers and are hopeful that H.R. 1268 can encourage its use. Data centers, which are 10 to 50 times more energy intensive than office buildings, are among the fastest growing users of energy in the United States.¹ The concentrated and continuous energy use in data centers places extraneous demand on an already taxed power grid. By generating both heat and electricity from a single fuel source, CHP dramatically lowers emissions and increases overall fuel efficiency – allowing users to effectively “get more with less.”

The critical functions of data centers demand energy reliability, which CHP can provide. Because a CHP system can operate independently of the grid, these systems can allow hosts to keep the lights on during extreme weather events. When rolling blackouts hit Houston in February 2011, BP’s Helios Plaza Data Center remained in operation, allowing business to continue without interruption.² CHP is one of many key energy-saving technologies available to you to steer your plan into effective action.

We thank you for your leadership and are encouraged by your recognition of the importance of energy efficiency. We look forward to helping the Energy Efficient Government Technology Act become law and in continuing to work with your office to expand energy efficiency. Please let me know if you would like to discuss the potential application of CHP in data centers further.

Sincerely,

Jennifer R. Kefer
Executive Director, Alliance for Industrial Efficiency

The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency is a coalition of business, labor and environmental organizations that are committed to encouraging the use of CHP and WHP to enhance U.S. manufacturing competitiveness, increase energy efficiency, and improve the environment.

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, “Data Centers and Servers” (<https://energy.gov/eere/buildings/data-centers-and-servers>)

² Natural Resource Defense Council, August 2014, “Scaling Up Energy Efficiency Across the Data Center Industry: Evaluating Key Drivers and Barriers” (<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/data-center-efficiency-assessment-IP.pdf>)