March 7, 2017

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development, and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
on Energy and Water Development,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

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 and businesses, we are writing in support of at least level funding during the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 and in FY2018 for energy efficiency programs administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). These programs return benefits and savings to American homeowners, consumers, and businesses many times more 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 maintain at least the current level of funding and work with the new administration to ensure these programs 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, and it will continue to be for the foreseeable future. The importance of U.S DOE research, technical assistance, and market integration efforts that have driven gains in energy efficiency cannot be overstated. 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%. 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.

U.S. DOE energy efficiency programs have provided an exceptional value to American consumers and businesses, yielding benefits that far outweigh the relatively nominal outlays appropriated by Congress. For every federal dollar granted to state energy offices, residents accrue direct savings worth $7, not to mention the increased capacity for technical assistance for homeowners, consumers, and (especially small) businesses. A review of U.S. DOE energy efficiency and renewable energy research and development activities determined that

investments worth $12 billion led to a net benefit to the U.S. economy worth $230 billion with a 20% annual rate of return. Other U.S. DOE funding has been used to gain access to and leverage private capital in performance contracts, which have been used to finance hundreds of projects across two dozen agencies that will reduce energy outlays by $8 billion over the next 18 years and create 30,000 jobs.

Your constituents earn their share of these enviable returns as well. U.S. DOE has helped improve the energy efficiency of homes for over seven million low-income and rural Americans, who are particularly susceptible to volatile energy prices and higher utility bills. Lifetime savings from appliance and equipment standards outweigh incremental costs by a ratio of four to one. An average American household saves about $500 in utility bills each year because their appliances meet energy efficiency standards. For example, a refrigerator today uses 25% of the energy used by a 1973 refrigerator while offering 20% more capacity and many other convenient features—all while costing about half as much. And when financed with a traditional mortgage, an average homeowner realizes net savings from updated building energy codes starting within one to two years of buying a new house.

The U.S. is in the midst of a transition to a truly modern, integrated power grid and dynamic energy sector. U.S. 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 21st 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 U.S. DOE in FY2017 and FY2018.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
Alliance to Save Energy
Ameresco
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
ASHRAE
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Cree
Danfoss
E4TheFuture
EcoThermalFilters
Energy Resources Center
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Green Business Certification Inc.
Home Performance Coalition
Illuminating Engineering Society
Institute for Market Transformation
International Association of Lighting Designers
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
National Association for State Community Services Programs

National Association of Energy Service Companies
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Electrical Contractors Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
The Stella Group, Ltd.
U.S. Green Building Council

CC: Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
Chairman and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations