



November 9, 2017

The Honorable Michael Bennet
U.S. Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Rebuilding Resilient Energy Systems Act of 2017

Senator Bennet:

I am writing to thank you for introducing the Rebuilding Resilient Energy Systems Act. I appreciate your leadership in recognizing the importance of directing federal funds toward rebuilding energy systems and buildings in an energy efficient and resilient manner in order to better prepare for future disasters.

The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency (the Alliance) is a coalition of businesses, labor groups and non-profit organizations that supports state and federal policies that encourage deployment of combined heat and power (CHP) and waste heat to power (WHP).

The recent natural disasters have reaffirmed the importance of constructing more efficient and resilient energy systems, particularly for critical infrastructure. The Resilient Energy Systems Act will ensure that federal funding is directed to this purpose.

As the bill moves forward, we wanted to provide background about CHP's resiliency benefits. By generating both heat and electricity from a single fuel source, CHP is twice as efficient as conventional power generation. Moreover, CHP systems are very reliable, with a reliability of 95% and higher across all technology types. Because these systems can operate independently of the grid, they can keep the lights and power on during hurricanes, severe flooding, and other states of emergency. We have witnessed these reliability benefits during a number of recent natural disasters:

- Most recently, the largest medical center in the world (Texas Medical Center) operated during the extreme flooding from Hurricane Harvey due to the resiliency of CHP. Similarly, CHP enabled a resort in the U.S. Virgin Islands to stay online during Irma.
- During Superstorm Sandy, New York University's core campus—powered by a combined cycle CHP system—maintained lighting and HVAC capabilities, providing refuge for residents without power in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- During Hurricane Katrina, a CHP gas turbine allowed a medical center in Mississippi (MBMC) to remain fully operational; serving both as a sanctuary for patients from other hospitals and a home-base for emergency first responders.

In each of these instances, CHP increased the resiliency and improved the reliability of the grid. We are hopeful that these systems will be recognized for funding under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and that technical assistance be available to support such efforts.

We look forward to working with you to advance resilient energy systems.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kefer
Executive Director, Alliance for Industrial Efficiency