

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

April XY, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: ENSURING THE FUTURE OF THE ENERGY STAR® PROGRAM**

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

As manufacturers, homebuilders, building owners, small businesses, and other organizations working across the U.S. economy, we write to express our strong support for the ENERGY STAR® program and urge you to maintain full funding and staffing levels to ensure it continues delivering unparalleled economic benefits for millions of Americans. We appreciate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) commitment to ensuring clean air, land and water for every American. As the demand on the electricity grid increases as a result of America's leadership in artificial intelligence (AI) and growing demand for data centers, energy efficiency becomes ever more critical. EPA's ENERGY STAR program has 90% brand awareness and delivers on energy efficiency through significant savings for the American public.

Begun under President George H.W. Bush, ENERGY STAR is among the most successful public-private partnerships in U.S. history. It is a voluntary program with more than 30 years of success driving energy efficiency innovation across economic sectors, from labeled consumer products to buildings and manufacturing plants. It consistently delivers a tremendous return on taxpayer investment: Its current annual budget of approximately \$32 million represents less than 1% of EPA's spending yet saves American households more than \$40 billion annually on energy bills. For every dollar the federal government spends on the program, consumers save \$350.<sup>1</sup>

A fully-funded ENERGY STAR program is particularly important for meeting the Trump administration's goal of reducing Americans' energy bills. As a cost-effective, flexible, market-driven program, it is a strategic, bipartisan solution to directly lower bills while strengthening U.S. energy independence. In fact, a typical household can save about \$450 on energy costs each year by choosing ENERGY STAR products. With energy prices continuing to be a top concern for American families, programs like ENERGY STAR are more critical than ever.

ENERGY STAR not only saves money—it improves grid stability and resilience by reducing peak electricity demand. With grid disruptions on the rise, ENERGY STAR-certified appliances, electronics, homes, buildings, and industrial facilities help ensure that consumers and businesses use energy more efficiently, decreasing strain on the grid and lowering the risk of blackouts. By reducing overall energy demand, ENERGY STAR helps utilities better manage energy supply, lowering costs for all ratepayers while making the electric grid more secure.

ENERGY STAR is also a major driver of the American economy, including supporting more than 750,000 jobs in sectors like manufacturing, retail, real estate, and energy services.<sup>2</sup>

- Americans purchase 300 million ENERGY STAR-certified products annually—nearly 1 million per day—representing a market value of \$100 billion.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.energystar.gov/about/impacts>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/Annual%20Overview%20Report\\_2023.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/Annual%20Overview%20Report_2023.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdf/fact-sheet/impact-federal-ee-programs.pdf>

- The program has more than 16,000 participating companies and organizations, including over 1,800 manufacturers, 1,200 retailers, and 840 utilities, all of whom rely on ENERGY STAR to drive consumer demand for energy efficiency.<sup>4</sup>
- ENERGY STAR's influence extends into commercial real estate, home construction and industrial sectors, where energy-efficient buildings, homes and manufacturing practices reduce costs, enhance productivity, and create new opportunities for American workers.
- Homebuilders built nearly 350,000 ENERGY STAR certified homes in 2024<sup>5</sup>, representing roughly one quarter of all new U.S. housing starts.
- More than 330,000 buildings have used ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager program to benchmark their energy use across nearly 35 billion square feet – or about 25% of all commercial floor space nationwide – allowing building owners to track, compare and improve energy performance over time and make business decisions about investments and capital projects.

EPA is uniquely qualified to administer this nationwide program and has demonstrated that it can do so successfully with technical expertise, balancing stakeholder perspectives and creating public awareness. A recent EPA report to Congress demonstrates how ENERGY STAR has successfully moved with the market through Most Efficient annual recognitions, appliance specifications, and cross-product integrated communications efforts.<sup>66</sup> Continuing to fund the ENERGY STAR program at EPA and maintaining full funding and staffing levels is critical. ENERGY STAR recognizes only most energy efficient products and EPA has demonstrated time and again its strong capability of recognizing innovation at a rapid pace, protecting the integrity of the ENERGY STAR recognition.

Our companies have devoted considerable time and resources to partnering with ENERGY STAR because it works for business. We respectfully urge you to stand with us in support of ENERGY STAR by ensuring that it remains well-funded and expertly staffed at EPA.

Please contact Sapna Gheewala Dowla [sgdowla@ase.org](mailto:sgdowla@ase.org) at the Alliance to Save Energy or Ben Evans [bevans@usgbc.org](mailto:bevans@usgbc.org) at the U.S. Green Building Council for questions or further info.

Sincerely,

[Signatories]

CC:

Mr. Aaron Szabo, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
 The Honorable Abbie Tardif, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation,  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives  
 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of  
 Representatives  
 The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies,  
 U.S. House of Representatives

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.energystar.gov/about/impacts>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/the\\_45L\\_tax\\_credit\\_for\\_new\\_energy-](https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/the_45L_tax_credit_for_new_energy-)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-doe-report-catalogs-benefits-consumers-appliance-industry-and-environment-2009>

The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chair, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse, Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate