

July 17, 2019

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

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: Support for H.R. 2041, the Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act of 2019:

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

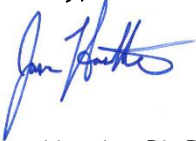
I write today in support of H.R. 2041, the Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act of 2019. This broadly supported bill would re-authorize the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and expand the types of technologies and projects that qualify for funding. I encourage you and your colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce to favorably report this bill to the full U.S. House of Representatives for passage.

WAP provides low-income families with financial and technical assistance needed to weatherize their homes. Weatherization retrofits may take the form of improvements to the building envelope, heating and cooling systems, and electrical systems. WAP upgrades save households an average of \$283 per year. Low-income Americans in both rural and urban areas spend a greater share of their income on energy costs. Roughly 25 million American households are forced to choose between buying food or paying their energy bills.

For every dollar invested in weatherization, \$1.72 is generated in energy benefits and another \$2.78 in non-energy benefits. That is a remarkable return on investment. This bill would seek to deliver even more of those benefits by providing funding to weatherize additional homes, permitting the use of more measures and technologies, and allowing funding to be used for preliminary “weatherization-ready” work that currently precludes weatherization.

Thank you for your leadership in energy efficiency policy and your efforts to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Jason Hartke, Ph.D.

Cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Republican Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Members, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce