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**Outside Witness Testimony
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
U.S. Department of Energy**

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the FY 2027 House Energy and Water Development appropriations legislation. The Alliance to Save Energy, on behalf of the Energy Efficiency Strategy Group (EESG), recommends sustained investments across the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) energy efficiency (EE) portfolio, including program direction funding of \$200 million for EERE; \$378 million for Building Technologies; \$442 million for Weatherization; \$90 million for the State Energy Program; \$325 million for Industrial Technologies; and at least \$36 million to maintain uninterrupted operation of ENERGY STAR. A more detailed programmatic breakdown can be found in the March 16 EESG Letter of Support for Robust FY27 U.S. DOE Energy Efficiency-Related Funding.¹

As the nation faces rapidly growing electricity demand, including the significant load increases driven by the expansion of artificial intelligence, manufacturing, data centers, and electrification, energy efficiency remains one of the most cost-effective and immediate tools we have to ensure a reliable, affordable, and resilient energy system when energy affordability is paramount. Energy efficiency measures have helped cut our energy use in half relative to the size of the U.S. economy since 1980. This energy waste reduction has effectively delivered more than \$2,000 in annual savings per American. Scaling up key energy efficiency-related policies and programs can slash U.S. energy use, saving more than \$700 billion in 2050.²

¹ https://www.ase.org/sites/ase.org/files/ee_coalition_ew_fy27_approps_letter_3.16.26.pdf

² Nadel, S., and L. Ungar. 2019. *Halfway There: Energy Efficiency Can Cut Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Half by 2050*. Washington, DC: ACEEE. <https://www.aceee.org/research-report/u1907>

Without action, anticipated power sector infrastructure build-up is estimated to cost an additional \$385-520 billion annually by 2050. Energy efficiency can offset those costs by about \$107 billion, with about 75% of those savings going to residential families and homes, resulting in lower energy bills.³

The U.S. energy efficiency workforce is composed of nearly 2.4 million Americans, which is the largest share of the entire U.S. energy sector and is more than all combined jobs in clean and fossil energy generation.⁴ In 2024, the median annual salary for workers in the energy efficiency sector was \$59,390, 20.0% higher than the national median salary.⁵

The importance of the DOE in research, technical assistance, and market integration efforts that have driven gains in energy efficiency cannot be overstated. According to various impact evaluation studies, DOE's innovation investments have had a benefit-to-cost ratio of 33 to 1 and generated billions of net economic benefits for the country.⁶ We respectfully request FY2027 regular appropriations funding for the following DOE programs, as summarized below:

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE): \$200 million for program direction funds to increase the number of staff to support mission-critical functions.

Building Technologies Office (BTO): \$378 million to develop innovative, cost-effective technologies, tools, and solutions that help U.S. homeowners, consumers, and businesses achieve peak energy efficiency performance in their buildings across all sectors of our economy. Within this account, robust funding is needed for:

³ [https://www.cell.com/one-earth/pdfExtended/S2590-3322\(23\)00342-1](https://www.cell.com/one-earth/pdfExtended/S2590-3322(23)00342-1)

⁴ Building Performance Association, 2025. *Energy Efficiency Jobs in America Report*. https://building-performance.org/documents/2025/EEJAFullReport_2025.pdf.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Dowd, J. 2017. *Aggregate Economic Return on Investment in the U.S. DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*. U.S. Department of Energy. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/analysis/downloads/aggregate-economic-return-investment-us-doe-office-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy>

- **Residential Buildings Integration (RBI): \$91 million** for DOE to collaborate with the residential building industry to improve the energy efficiency of both new and existing homes.
- **Commercial Building Integration (CBI): \$70 million** for the program’s research, development, and evaluation help to advance a range of innovative building technologies and solutions, paving the way for high performing buildings that could use between 50% and 70% less energy than typical buildings.
- **Efficiency Standards, Building Codes, and Test Procedures: \$90 million** for equipment and building standards, including \$60 million for appliance standards and not less than \$30 million for the Building Energy Codes Program.
- **Emerging Technologies (ET): \$107 million** for the program to enable cost-effective, energy- efficient technologies to be developed and introduced into the marketplace.

Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office (AMMTO): \$215 million to drive manufacturing innovation and boost American industrial competitiveness, particularly in material innovations and reshoring industrial capacity.

Industrial Technologies Office (ITO): \$325 million to invest in research, development, and demonstrations across the domestic industrial base to modernize and strengthen American industrial leadership against global competitors.

Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC): Not less than \$19 million to support strengthening MESC’s overall performance, organization, budget, operations, human capital, and project management as the office invests in manufacturing capacity and workforce development.

Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP): Not less than \$60 million to

provide project and policy expertise to all federal agencies, including not less than \$20 million for the Department to continue its work through the Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) program under the Federal Energy Efficiency Fund and \$2 million for the Performance Based Contract National Resource Initiative (PCNRC). FEMP's work has resulted in approximately \$8.9 billion in investments in federal energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements; generating approximately \$19.3 billion in cumulative energy cost savings for the federal government and 63,000 job-years.

Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP): \$22 million for Program Direction to support successful implementation and oversight of the Office's programs and priorities, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP) noted below.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP): Not less than \$442 million is recommended for the Weatherization Assistance Program, including \$375 million for the base Program, \$15 million for training and technical assistance, and \$52 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund. According to the Energy Information Administration, over 25 million American households report forgoing food or medicine to pay energy costs, while over 12 million households report being unable to use their heating or cooling equipment. Since 1976, WAP has helped make more than 7.2 million homes more efficient, saving the average recipient about \$4,200 over the lifetime of their home.

U.S. State Energy Program (SEP): Not less than \$90 million is recommended for U.S. State Energy Program grants. The Department is to provide not less than 95% of these funds for formula grants to State Energy Offices in accordance with the formula that was in place as of January 1, 2026. In addition to energy efficiency and renewable energy programs,

SEP is critical for dealing with cyber security and energy emergency preparedness and response. SEP is extremely flexible and is the basis for a variety of partnership programs

U.S. Energy & Employment Report (USEER): \$2 million for the Office of Policy to complete the annual U.S. energy employment report that includes a comprehensive statistical survey to collect data, publish the data, and provide a summary report.

Energy Information Administration (EIA): Not less than \$145 million to continue the important data collection, analysis, and reporting activities of the EIA, including not less than \$24.6 million to administer and increase the detail and frequency of the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS), the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS), and the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS) in line with the President's Budget Request.

ENERGY STAR® Program: \$36 million is recommended for the ENERGY STAR program with funding included in legislative text. On March 3, 2026, DOE and EPA signed an agreement to shift primary management and responsibility for ENERGY STAR to DOE. Particularly at a time when ENERGY STAR is severely understaffed, such a transition creates risks for the program and the ENERGY STAR brand, which is an incredibly valuable public asset. It is critical that Congress provide adequate and direct funding to ENERGY STAR to maintain continuity of operations.

We stand ready to work with Congress, the White House, and federal agencies to identify ways the U.S. can improve affordability and access to energy-efficient technologies, unlock utility savings for consumers, reduce energy-related carbon emissions, and improve public health. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please contact Jason Reott jreott@ase.org at the Alliance to Save Energy for questions or further info.