April 1, 2019

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, & Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

We write to urge your continued support for key energy efficiency and clean energy programs within the Department of Energy: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs provide the foundation for investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save families and businesses money through improved efficiency, and reduce pollution. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully request that you fund WAP at $270 million and SEP at $70 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities improve the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up limited resources for other essentials like food and medicine. Over the past four decades, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 7.4 million low-income households. A peer-reviewed evaluation by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that the program is cost-effective by even the most conservative estimates. Each Weatherization Assistance dollar produces $4.50 in benefits, including energy savings as well as improved health and safety. The WAP also helps workers and small businesses, directly supporting more than 8,500 jobs and supporting thousands more in related industries. We respectfully request that WAP is funded at $270 million, a level that will ensure that all states have the resources to support their weatherization programs that help reduce the burden of high energy prices on low-income families.
The State Energy Program enables states to assist with the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, such as improving the efficiency of hospitals and schools; developing and implementing energy emergency preparedness and response plans; advancing energy innovation through coordination of university energy R&D activities, support for business incubators, and job training; and working with utilities and energy service companies to leverage private financing for clean energy and energy efficiency projects. In July of 2017, the House passed legislation to enhance the SEP by voice vote, including a $90 million annual reauthorization. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every dollar of federal funding, the SEP leverages over $10 for energy-related economic development and produces over $7 in energy savings. The SEP helps consumers and small businesses in implementing cost-effective actions. We respectfully request that this program be funded at $70 million.

We appreciate your efforts in confronting our country's fiscal challenges and your prioritization of programs that promote job growth. In this spirit, we believe that investments in programs like WAP and SEP that reduce costs for both individuals and businesses, and create greater economic opportunities in communities across the nation, should be maintained in FY 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress
Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
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Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
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Joe Courtney
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
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Don Young
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Richard E. Neal
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Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress
Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress
Rick Larsen
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Diana DeGette
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Steve Cohen
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Jim Costa
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G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
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James R. Langevin
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Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
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Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
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Lori Trahan
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Jennifer González-Colón
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Ilhan Omar
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Darren Soto
Member of Congress
Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
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Zoe Lofgren
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Deb Haaland
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John E. Larson
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Joe Neguse
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Alex X. Mooney
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Jason Crow
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Member of Congress  

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Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
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Member of Congress  

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress  

Brian Higgins  
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Mark Takano  
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Ted W. Lieu  
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James P. McGovern  
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Cindy Axne  
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Joseph P. Kennedy, III
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David Scott
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Ro Khanna
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Jimmy Panetta
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Abby Finkenauer
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Francis Rooney
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Debbie Dingell
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Jesus G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams
Member of Congress