

FY2025 WAP Dear Colleague Letter in the House

Dear Chairman Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write to urge your continued support for the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Weatherization Readiness Fund, and State Energy Program (SEP). These programs provide the foundation for investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, and save families and businesses money through improved energy efficiency. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you prioritize these accounts for Fiscal Year 2025.

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 program 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 to 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.

In addition to the Weatherization Assistance Program, the Department of Energy also provides critical funding for Training & Technical Assistance and the Weatherization Readiness Fund. Many low-income households eligible for WAP are unable to receive assistance due to their homes being in such poor condition. Unfortunately, these households often cannot afford the necessary repairs to make their homes weatherization-ready, and therefore never receive the financial and health benefits from cost-effective weatherization services. For the past three years, the Department of Energy has received funding for the Weatherization Readiness Fund. This program supplements the Weatherization Assistance Program to support repairs that address structural, health, and safety issues to make homes that would otherwise be deferred weatherization-ready.

We encourage you to include \$375 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, \$15 million for Training & Technical Assistance, and \$52 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund to holistically support the provision of weatherization assistance to low-income households across the country.

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, cyber security, 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. 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. We respectfully request that this program be funded at \$90 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, Weatherization Readiness, and SEP should be maintained in Fiscal Year 2025.

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