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Hon Ed Pastor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 10, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman

When you meet in House-Senate Conference on HR 3183 the 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, we respectfully urge you to include in the Conference Report a provision requiring that *no funds will be taken out of the Weatherization Assistance Program for special projects managed by the Department of Energy unless such funds are excess of the President's requested level of \$220 million.*

This provision would, effectively, mean the 2010 appropriations would be used as directed in the House-passed Bill, i.e. for the purpose of weatherizing low-income homes in the states' programs. By contrast, the Senate Bill Report directs that only \$130 million be used in the core program, while more than a third, \$70 million of \$200 million appropriated, would be directed for two DOE-initiated national demonstration projects.

Our organizations represent, respectively, the state administrators of the Weatherization Assistance Program and the local Community Action Agencies that deliver the program's services. Our member organizations are prepared to, weatherize homes in 2010 at a funding level representing the Recovery Act Funds plus the \$220 million requested by the President for FY 2010. At the reduced total program funding in either the House or Senate versions of Bill, we believe all of the funds provided should be put to the program's central purpose: producing energy savings for America's most vulnerable consumers, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Senate Report provisions would mean that at least 11,000 low- and moderate-income households would be denied weatherization services that could be provided if the full Senate appropriation is available for the program. The House bill, by contrast, would weatherize almost 14,000 more low-income homes than the Senate-passed Bill, a goal that our member organizations are currently committed to achieving.

The Weatherization network fully recognizes the importance of innovation and of testing new approaches to the challenge of making significant energy savings in all residences. However, the Department already has reserved a substantial proportion of WAP ARRA funds to demonstrate new approaches for Weatherization partnerships and resources, more than \$125 million. In addition, the Department announced at the national WAP training Conference held July 21-23 that it would soon be releasing an RFP for grants totaling \$450 million to support innovative residential efficiency financing alternatives. We applaud support for new partnerships, and we also believe that providing more than half a billion dollars for this purpose over the term of the ARRA (which includes FY 2010) is sufficient.

The insulation demonstration proposed in the Senate Report is an unnecessary expenditure that would duplicate many previous studies of the value of insulation alone and in combination with systematic

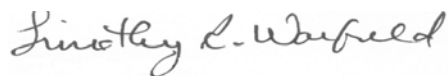
reduction of energy loss. Any practical alternatives not already well-studied will be captured in the formal evaluations of Weatherization now underway.

In closing, our members have asked us to make you aware that recent pessimistic publicity about the challenges to state and local Weatherizers is wrong: our local community Weatherizers and their state program managers are, indeed, ready for and capable of delivering the Recovery Act Weatherization. The press stories quoting claims that there is a "25-fold increase" in the program are absurdly off-base. The facts are:

- In the 2008 program year, Weatherizers delivered more than \$1 billion in Weatherization services, of which just \$239.5 was the DOE appropriation. (see the Funding Survey at waptac.org) The previous year's total was nearly \$800 million. (see the report at www.opportunitystudies.org).
- The ARRA funding will be spent over almost 2.5 years. Since DOE is allocating \$4.7 billion to the states, that means about of \$1.8 billion in ARRA funds will be available in the first year along with \$200 million in new base program funding, \$2 billion in the second year and about \$700 million in the final six months.
- The 2009 and 2010 programs will be just three times their PY 2008 size nationwide *IF* the network maintains the \$1 billion in base funding. Some states have higher proportional increases, and a number have considerably less.

Thank you for reviewing these facts about the Recovery Act initiative the Weatherization network is about to implement confidently and with great pride. Thank you also for considering our concerns regarding the Senate version of HR 3183 and ensuring that the provisions in the Senate Report do not govern the disposition of appropriations provided in the Conference Report.

Sincerely



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Executive Director, NASCSP



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