

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We applaud your commitment to restoring our nation's global leadership on climate change while creating jobs here at home. To further these goals, we respectfully request you provide robust funding for programs that promote energy efficiency throughout our economy as your administration crafts its budget recommendation to Congress for fiscal year 2022.

Increasing investment in energy efficiency programs within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) can deliver significant emissions reductions, grow jobs in the clean energy sector and provide savings to American consumers. Specifically, the Buildings Technologies Office and the recently reauthorized Federal Energy Management Program develop and deploy cost-effective technologies and tools to improve energy efficiency performance of residential, commercial and federal buildings and their interactivity with the electric grid. The Advanced Manufacturing Office accelerates research, development and deployment of advanced technologies that make U.S. companies competitive in international markets. Moreover, the Weatherization Assistance Program and State Energy Program empower our states and community organizations to help put people to work improving the efficiency of homes, businesses, manufacturing plants, institutional buildings and other facilities that are critical to community development and resilience. Investing in these programs will also help address equity issues by reducing pollution that disproportionately impacts minority communities, lowering the higher energy burdens faced by low-income households and creating more comfortable and habitable shelters as the severity and pace of climate disasters continue to increase across the country.

The environmental and economic benefits of energy efficiency are clear. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), energy efficiency globally has the potential to achieve more than 40% of the energy-related emissions reduction needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.¹ In the United States, energy efficiency employment grew by 20%, nearly three times the rate of growth in the overall economy, in the five years leading up to 2020, and energy efficiency jobs are available in nearly every county in every state.² Unfortunately, the pandemic and associated economic impacts have hit the energy efficiency sector especially hard, slowing

¹ International Energy Agency, *Energy Efficiency 2020*. December 2020. <https://www.iea.org/reports/energy-efficiency-2020>.

²National Association of State Energy Officials and Energy Futures Initiative, *2020 U.S. Energy & Employment Report*. <https://www.usenergyjobs.org/>.

progress and costing jobs, particularly for workers of color. According to recent analysis, more than 300,000 American jobs in energy efficiency have been lost since the beginning of the pandemic, representing a 12.8% reduction from pre-pandemic levels.³ Though jobs have been slowly returning, we need to invest in programs and implement policies—as we did in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—to truly unleash the job-creating potential of this sector. To help us understand these trends and the potential for growth, we also encourage your administration to recommit to collecting data and publishing an annual U.S. Energy and Employment Report and properly funding the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Finally, while DOE is clearly a leading agency in the federal government’s efforts to improve energy efficiency, we encourage your administration to prioritize energy efficiency across the administration and throughout sectors of our economy. We have a tremendous opportunity ahead to encourage work on energy efficiency through the General Services Administration, Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development programs, Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program, and more.

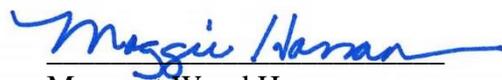
We look forward to working with you to unlock the unrealized potential of energy efficiency. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator


Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator


Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator


Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

³ BW Research Partnership, *Clean Energy Employment Initial Impacts from the COVID-19 Economic Crisis*, December 2020. January 13, 2021. <https://e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Clean-Energy-Jobs-December-COVID-19-Memo-Final.pdf>.



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United States Senator



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United States Senator

/s/ Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Cc: Secretary Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy