

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2026

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Chair, Subcommittee on Energy  
And Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee  
on Energy and Water Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Kennedy and Ranking Member Murray:

We write to urge your continued support for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save households and businesses money, and reduce pollution. As such, we respectfully request that you include \$375 million for WAP, \$15 million for Training & Technical Assistance, \$52 million for the Weatherization Readiness Fund, and \$90 million for SEP.

The Weatherization Assistance Program helps low-income families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities make lasting energy efficiency improvements to their homes. The reduced energy costs free up limited financial resources for essentials such as food and medicine. Throughout the history of the program, WAP has helped more than 7.4 million low-income households reduce their energy bills and saved each household an average of \$372 in annual energy costs. At a time where energy costs are skyrocketing across the country, it is more important than ever to make energy efficiency investments that will help Americans for the long-term.

WAP's benefits extend beyond cost savings. A Department of Energy study found that in one year it reduced carbon emissions by more 2.2 million metric tons – the equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off the road. A study by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) found that children in weatherized households miss less school, improving educational outcomes. Adults miss less work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to economic growth. Families also experience fewer asthma symptoms and emergency room visits, decreasing out-of-pocket medical expenses. WAP also leverages additional non-federal funds, while supporting over 8,500 jobs and increasing national economic output by \$1.2 billion.

The State Energy Program provides technical expertise and funding to help states improve energy security, increase energy efficiency, and boost economic growth. SEP combines the scientific and economic knowledge of the Department of Energy with locally led planning to improve the energy efficiency of hospitals and schools, support clean energy projects, and boost private sector energy innovation. A study by ORNL shows that every federal dollar invested in SEP leverages over \$10 for energy-related economic development and produces over \$7 in energy savings. The same study estimates that businesses reinvesting these energy savings into job-creating opportunities leads to thousands of jobs created per year.

We appreciate your efforts to prioritize programs like WAP and SEP, which reduce costs for American households and businesses, create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, and reduce pollution. We urge you to continue your strong support for these programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support these programs.

Sincerely,

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DRAFT