

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 30, 2012

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request your support for two key programs within your Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) budget proposal: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). Specifically, we urge you to ensure that your budget submission provides no less than \$210 million for WAP and \$50 million for SEP.

Since 1976, the Weatherization Assistance Program has helped more than 7 million low-income families save money by improving the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up finite resources for other essentials like food and medicine. Indeed, weatherization saves households on average up to \$400 per year on their heating and cooling bills. In addition, this successful program supports American construction, small business, and manufacturing jobs, and a study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every \$1 invested in the program, weatherization returns \$2.51 in benefits to households and society. Restoring funding for WAP to \$210 million will ensure that all states have the resources to help reduce the burden of energy prices on low-income families.

The State Energy Program allows states to assist with the development of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and effectively works with the private and public sectors to produce significant returns. Another study, also by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, found that every dollar of SEP federal funds are leveraged by \$10.71 of state and private funds, and result in \$7.22 in annual energy savings. We respectfully request that this program be funded at \$50 million.

We recognize the challenges on the discretionary budget for FY14, and believe in the prioritization of programs that support jobs, assist with the nation's economic recovery, and help meet important goals like improving efficiency and reducing pollution. In this spirit, we believe that investments in programs like WAP and SEP that reduce costs for individuals, businesses, and society, and create greater economic competitiveness for our nation, should be maintained.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed

John M. ...

John ...

John ...

Max Baucus

Mark ...

Jim Webb

Patrick Leahy

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Bob Casey, Jr.

Olympia ...

Sheldon Brown

Zoe Lofgren

Jim ...

Byrd ...

Chris Coons

Al Franken

John ...

Carl Levin

Ben Cardin

Jay Byrnes

Barbara Mikulski

Jeffrey A. Huber

Amy Klobuchar

Tom Udall

Rebekah Starobin

Mary G. Jepsen

Richard Blumenthal

Jeanne Shaheen

Robert Menendez

Maria Cantwell

Chuck Sch

Jamil K. D. Spaka

Jim Johnson

Frank R. Lautenberg

Susan Collins

Al Franken

cc: The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director of Office and Management and Budget
The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu, PHD, Secretary of the Department of Energy