

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson,
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur,
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy & Water
Development, & Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write to urge your continued support for key energy efficiency and clean energy programs within the Department of Energy: the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). These programs provide the foundation for investments that create jobs, increase American competitiveness, save families and businesses money through improved efficiency, and reduce pollution. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully request that you fund WAP at \$230 million and SEP at \$70 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

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. For four decades, WAP has provided weatherization services to more than 7 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 \$4.10 in benefits, including energy savings as well as improved health and safety. We respectfully request that WAP is funded at \$230 million, the level that was included in the FY 2017 President's Budget Request. This will 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.

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, working with utilities and energy service companies to install clean energy and energy efficiency projects, developing energy emergency preparedness and response plans, and supporting private sector energy innovations through business incubators and job training. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every dollar of federal funding, the SEP leverages over \$10 for energy-related economic development. The SEP provides 300,000 energy efficiency technical assistance

contacts with consumers and small businesses to aid them in implementing cost-effective actions. We respectfully request that this program be funded at \$70 million, the level that was included in the FY 2017 President's Budget Request.

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 and SEP that reduce costs for both individuals and businesses, and create greater economic opportunities in communities across the nation, should be maintained in FY 2018.

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


Sincerely,



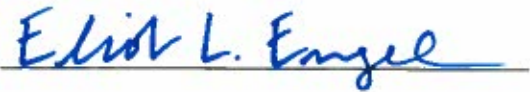
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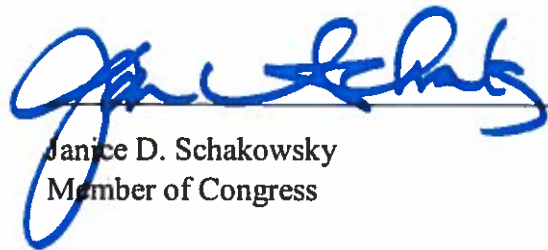
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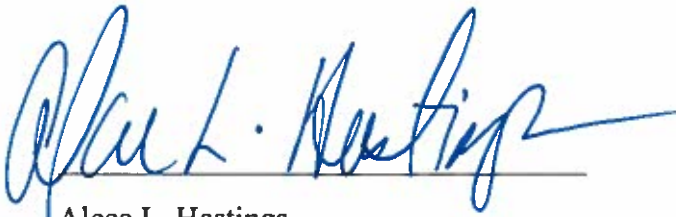
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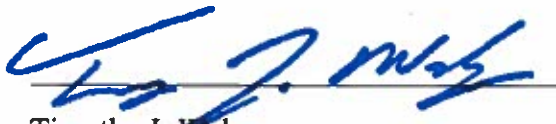
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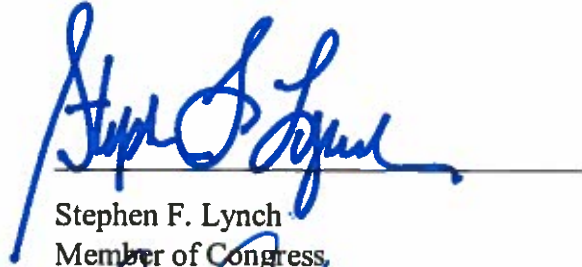
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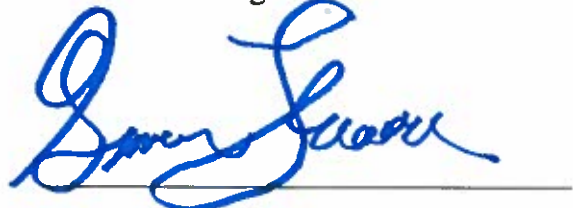
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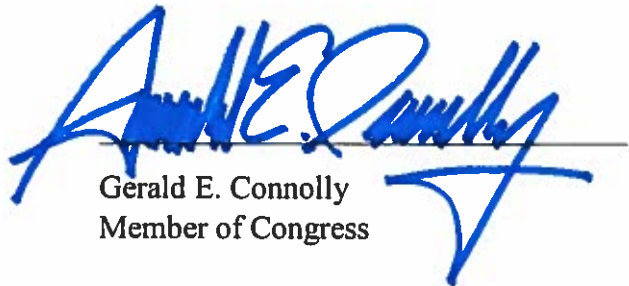
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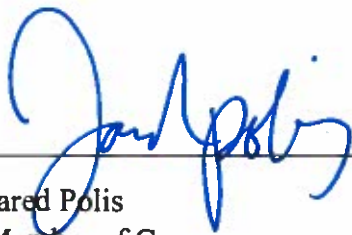
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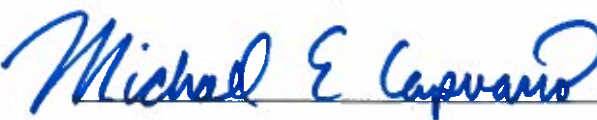
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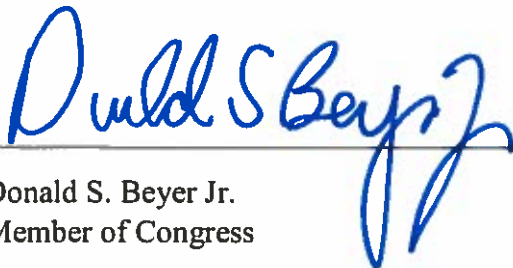
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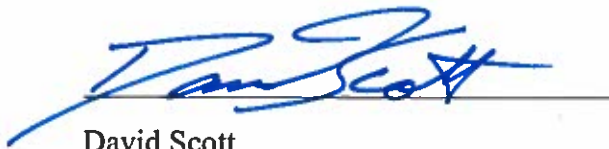
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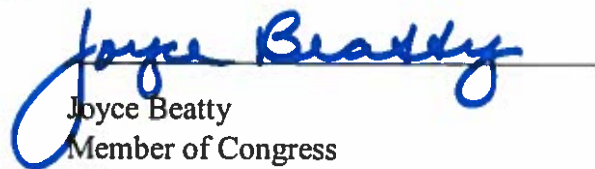
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