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COMMITTEE ON
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COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT
REFORM

COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL
CONDUCT

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

In his very first Saturday morning radio address, President Obama stated, "We'll save taxpayers \$2 billion a year by making 75 percent of federal buildings more energy efficient." We strongly support the President's commitment to making our federal buildings more efficient— saving both energy and taxpayer money. We also applaud your leadership of this effort and look forward to working with you to achieve this important goal.

We commend the Department of Energy for the recent announcement that it is undertaking "enhancements to the Department's use of Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) to accelerate energy savings and carbon reduction at DOE facilities." We are particularly pleased that the Department has highlighted the important role of the ESPC program. ESPCs have proven to be a highly successful tool to encourage energy efficiency in federal buildings, and the ESPC program will be essential to achieving the President's goal.

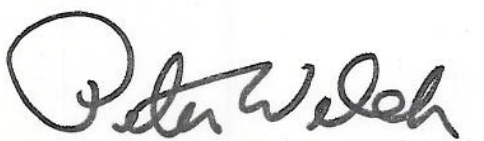
In support of the Administration's energy efficiency objective, we strongly urge you to take full advantage of the energy efficiency improvement provisions that Congress included in Section 432 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) P.L. 110-1409. This section calls for each agency to conduct comprehensive energy audits on facilities that comprise 75 percent of the agency's energy consumption. The provision also authorized the creation of a web-based tracking system to enable the federal government to better understand energy saving opportunities.

Section 432 of EISA 2007 is consistent with and supportive of the Administration's overall energy efficiency plans and will enhance our opportunity for successfully improving federal building efficiency. It provides a highly flexible approach to funding efficiency projects by permitting the use of appropriated funds or private sector financing through ESPCs or Utility Energy Savings Contracts, and explicitly permits any combination of these funding tools on a single project. Overall, Section 432 provides an

important framework for ensuring clear, measurable objectives, project transparency and standardized, enforceable provisions for ensuring savings on all federal energy efficiency projects, regardless of how a project is funded.

We want to reiterate our strong support of the President's commitment to improve the energy efficiency of federal buildings. It is because of our shared commitment and support of this goal that we respectfully urge implementation of EISA Section 432, which will be critically essential to our ultimate success in this important effort, and request a report on your plans to implement this important initiative by October 15. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



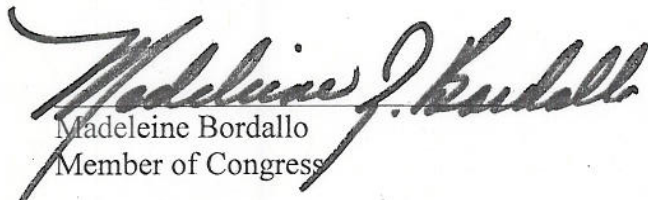
Michael Arcuri
Member of Congress



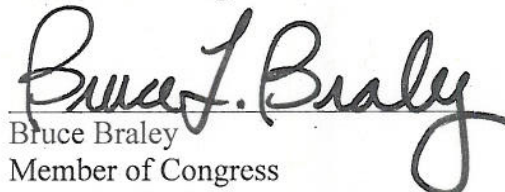
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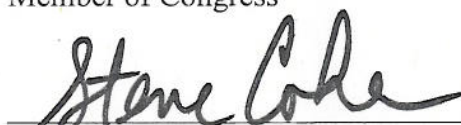
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



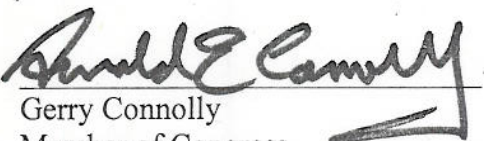
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



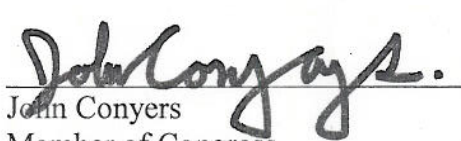
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