

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader Schumer:

We are pleased to learn that budget reconciliation discussions have picked up in recent weeks. The energy efficiency and building decarbonization provisions included in prior iterations of this legislation would deliver enormous efficiency gains and emissions reductions nationwide, and they remain the top priority of the efficiency advocacy community. We urge you to include them in any final legislative package and pass it as quickly as possible, given the shrinking window of opportunity in the current Congress.

As you know, energy efficiency must play a leading role in the nation's comprehensive strategy for strengthening energy security, sustainability, and affordability. Efficiency improvements have a direct and tangible impact in lowering energy costs for businesses and consumers while reducing demand for imported oil and gas supplies. Lower-income and middle-income households particularly spend a larger share of their budgets on energy bills, and provisions in this package would directly help them lower costs.

Efficiency is also a foundational tool in the urgent fight to tackle climate change. Recent studies have found that efficiency can account for at least 40% of emissions reductions needed to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord. But there is widespread agreement that we are not doing enough to advance efficiency across the economy.

Ambitious public policy and investments are needed to accelerate efficiency activity at a scale and speed that meets the urgency of the climate crisis and addresses recently exposed global energy security challenges. Budget reconciliation appears to be the only legislative vehicle that can deliver on that ambition in this Congress, and with 2030 looming, we can't wait to scale efficiency gains through strategic investment.

Our priorities include, but are not limited to, expanded energy efficiency tax incentives for home and building improvements, rebates for residential efficiency and electrification upgrades, investments in federal building improvements, expanded and improved affordable housing, and investments in schools, municipal buildings, and other critical facilities. These provisions are all well-vetted, will quickly begin to deliver results in energy savings, and are popular with individuals and businesses alike.

We are eager to work with you this spring to advance budget reconciliation legislation and deliver on our shared goals for addressing the climate crisis, reducing costs, and strengthening U.S. economic and energy security.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy (AEE)
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI)
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
ASHRAE
Building Performance Association (BPA)
Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE)
E4TheFuture
Federal Performance Contracting Coalition (FPCC)
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)
National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA)
RMI
U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Brenda Mallory
Chair
White House Council on Environmental Quality

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
National Climate Advisor
White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy