

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky, Chairman
The Honorable David L. Hobson, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Hobson:

We request your support for key energy efficiency programs at the Department of Energy for FY 2009, including the Weatherization Assistance Program, the State Energy Program, energy efficiency deployment programs, the Equipment Standards and Analysis Program, the Zero Net Energy Commercial Building Program, the Industrial Technologies Program, the Federal Energy Management Program, and the Distributed Energy Program. In addition, we request your support for funding for the Energy Information Administration, which provides the necessary information energy markets need to operate effectively.

Our nation faces significant challenges as we strive to ensure our energy security, reduce the economic risks of high energy prices, and address global climate change. As oil prices have just reached a record--over \$103/barrel--and natural gas prices have increased 24 percent since January 1, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that improve technologies for our homes, our businesses, and our vehicles are key for secure, affordable, and clean energy. Energy efficiency is the nation's greatest energy resource. We now save more energy each year from energy efficiency than we get from any single energy source, including oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power. A 2001 National Research Council report found that for every dollar invested in 17 energy efficiency programs at the Department of Energy, there was a return of nearly \$20 to the U.S. economy in the form of new products, new jobs, and energy cost savings to American homes and businesses.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** helps low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled by improving the energy efficiency of low-income housing. We urge you to fund WAP at no less than \$300 million in FY 2009. Each year the program has exceeded its target and weatherized approximately 100,000 homes. Increased funding would allow WAP to expand quickly to reduce energy usage by approximately 25 percent in each assisted home. This represents savings that families can use to pay for other necessities, while reducing the nation's energy demand by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil every year.

The **State Energy Program (SEP)** improves the energy efficiency of schools, hospitals, small businesses, farms, homes and industries. In addition, state energy offices handle the crucial energy emergency preparedness functions for states, including planning for potential terrorist attacks. We urge you to fund SEP at no less than \$75 million for the base program in FY 2009 to enable states to meet the demands of increased security and to continue and expand their invaluable work to promote energy efficiency programs for all Americans. SEP provides significant energy savings -- for every dollar invested in the program \$7.22 is saved in energy

costs (based on 2002 date, when energy prices were lower). SEP leverages \$10.71 in non-federal funding for every federal dollar spent and provides hundreds of millions of dollars in direct energy cost savings annually.

Energy efficiency deployment programs provide critical support for commercializing energy-efficiency technologies and increasing their use, often through matching grants to states. These cost-effective programs are needed if the energy efficiency technologies are to have a real impact in addressing our energy problems. We urge you to provide at least the funding levels noted below for each of the following programs in FY 2009: Rebuild America (\$5 million), Clean Cities (\$12.5 million), Building Energy Codes (\$10 million), Inventions and Innovations (\$2.4 million), and DOE Energy Star (\$10 million).

The Zero Net Energy Commercial Buildings Initiative was created in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 with the ambitious goal of achieving zero energy new commercial buildings in the United States by the year 2030. We urge funding for this important initiative at no less than the first year level of \$20 million.

The Equipment Standards and Analysis Program has enabled huge energy savings despite its small cost by setting appliance standards and test procedures. As of 2000, appliance standards had already reduced U.S. electricity use by an estimated 2.5 percent (88 billion kWh/year) and reduced peak power demand by approximately 21,000 MW. This is projected to grow to 6.9 percent by 2010. But the program is years behind on about 20 standards, with additional requirements stemming from EPACT 2005 and EISA. We urge you to provide at least the FY 2008 level of \$22 million in FY 2009.

The Industrial Technologies Program partners with industry and the states to fund research, technology development, and deployment that enhance energy efficiency and productivity. Industry consumes 36 percent of energy used in the United States. Through the development and use of more efficient technologies, manufacturers can increase productivity and competitiveness while reducing their impact on the environment. We urge you to fund this program at no less than \$64.4 million – level funding – in FY 2009. This program is one of the most effective programs at delivering energy efficiency improvements for every federal dollar invested.

The Federal Energy Management Program has helped cut federal building energy waste by 24 percent from 1985-2001 – a reduction that now saves federal taxpayers roughly \$1 billion each year in reduced energy costs. But funding has decreased for this program, even though large savings remain untapped, and EPACT 2005 and EISA impose expanded responsibilities on the program. We urge you to provide this program with at least the President's request of \$22 million in FY 2009, in addition to any funds the department is seeking for federal fleets and DOE infrastructure.

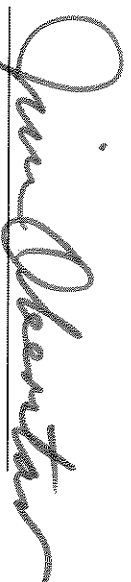
The Distributed Energy Program helps increase the use of distributed generation technologies that protect air quality and deliver much-needed power without further taxing the overstretched transmission and distribution system. This program funds research and development of new efficient distributed energy technologies, including combined heat and power initiatives, while encouraging their deployment. We urge you to fund this program at no less than \$60 million- (the historic funding level) in FY 2009. As recent analyses have shown, accelerated deployment of highly efficient combined heat and power technologies can help alleviate both supply and demand pressures in tight natural gas and oil markets.

The **Energy Information Administration (EIA)** plays a critical role in providing unbiased data to Congress, states, private businesses, and the public so they may understand and respond to changes and fluctuations in the energy markets and determine long-term capital investments in energy infrastructure. Congress and state officials need this data to prepare for and respond to local and regional energy emergencies and track patterns of energy consumption and production. As energy price volatility becomes increasingly problematic, this timely data becomes even more critical to help calm markets. We urge you to fund the EIA at \$120.6 million – \$10 million above the President's requested level – for FY 2009.

We recognize that the subcommittee will face difficult decisions but we believe increased investment in these programs will deliver substantial economic, security, and environmental returns for the entire nation.

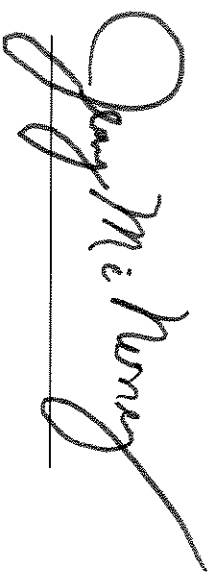
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

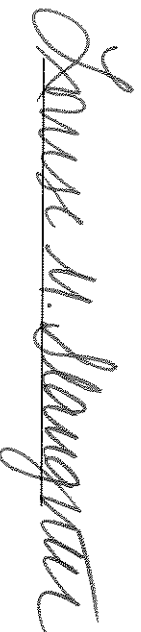
Sincerely,


Rep. James I. Oberstar

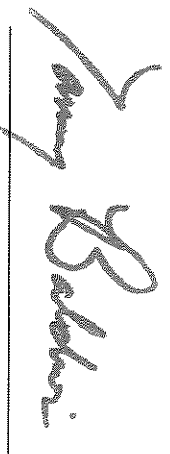

Rep. Steven C. LaTourette

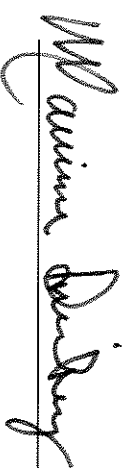

Rep. Edward J. Markey



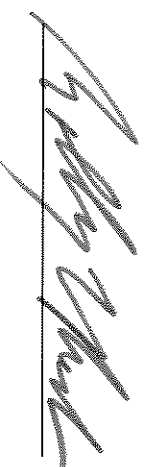












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