

September 23, 2020

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and
Technology
2321 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Chairman Pallone:

We commend your efforts to develop energy legislation (the Clean Energy Jobs and Innovation Act – H.R. 4447) to spur innovation, job creation and sustainability in the U.S. energy economy. Title I includes numerous bipartisan provisions that would deliver significant energy cost savings, greenhouse gas emissions reductions and economic growth by advancing energy efficiency in the US, including in the buildings, transportation and manufacturing sectors.

Energy efficiency is not only by far the largest employer in the clean energy economy, it is the single most effective solution we have for addressing climate change and an important strategy for improving economic competitiveness and reducing the outsized energy cost burden faced by low-income households. The energy efficiency provisions in this bill support all of those goals, and their passage would be a welcome down payment on critical efforts to address emissions reductions in the next Congress.

The bill, for example, would reauthorize and expand the Weatherization Assistance Program that provides grants to weatherize low-income homes. This will not only help thousands of low-income households permanently reduce their energy costs at a time when many are struggling to pay bills, it will create jobs for contractors and manufacturers across the country. Among other provisions, it also includes much of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (H.R. 3962), including paving the way for a new generation of more efficient homes and commercial buildings by supporting states and local governments in adopting and implementing building energy codes and standards. This is critically important because the buildings sector accounts for about 40 percent of U.S. energy use, and we build more than 1 million new homes in the U.S. each year.

We in the energy efficiency community believe that passage of bipartisan and bicameral energy efficiency legislation this year is important as we set up even more impactful policies in the 117th Congress to more comprehensively address our climate and economic crises. We appreciate your efforts to find common ground and advance those provisions that can pass in the current Congress. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Building Performance Association

E4TheFuture

Environmental and Energy Study Institute

E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

Institute for Market Transformation

National Association of Energy Service Companies

National Association for State Community Services Programs

National Association of State Energy Officials

Natural Resources Defense Council

U.S. Green Building Council