

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid:

We are writing to urge your support for key energy efficiency provisions in S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015. As you know, S. 2012 currently enjoys strong bipartisan support, which is due in large part to the leadership of Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell and their colleagues serving on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. We are confident that adherence to these priorities will strengthen bipartisan support for S. 2012 and put the Senate in a strong position for negotiation and reconciliation with the House of Representatives, which is necessary to craft final legislation that can be enacted into law.¹

In its current form, S. 2012 would preserve and strengthen the role of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in supporting and propagating updated building energy codes at the state and local level, as well as support the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP). We also encourage the Senate to adopt provisions that would permit and encourage the inclusion of energy efficiency in the residential mortgage underwriting process. These provisions were first articulated in the Sensible Accounting to Value Energy (SAVE) Act, introduced by Senators Johnny Isakson and Michael Bennett, and currently included in legislation that was also favorably reported by the Senate ENR Committee with strong bipartisan support.² The SAVE Act would allow the commonsense consideration of energy efficiency during mortgage underwriting, which would help homeowners realize the true value of home improvements that improve comfort and generate savings. We support the adoption of S. Amdt. #3202, offered by Senator Johnny Isakson and Senator Michael F. Bennet, to add SAVE Act provisions to S. 2012.

Energy efficiency is an energy resource—available to all homeowners and businesses—that is essential to our country’s energy independence. More than half of the energy used today to power our economy is wasted, which represents an enormous opportunity for achieving savings and extracting gains in the energy productivity of our economy. The Senate now has an

¹ Please note that we do not support the current provision in S. 2012 addressing residential furnace standards, which would likely delay or prevent savings for homeowners and consumers. We hope and trust that the provision that achieved consensus support in the House, or an alternative consensus provision, will be adopted in the final enacted bill.

² S. 720, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2015, introduced by Senators Rob Portman and Jeanne Shaheen, was approved 20-2 by the Senate ENR Committee on July 30, 2015. S. 720 includes the provisions of the SAVE Act.

opportunity to pass comprehensive legislation, which currently enjoys strong bipartisan support, that would improve the energy efficiency of homes and commercial buildings in every town, city, county, and state; help consumers and businesses manage their energy consumption and realize returns on their investments; and generate meaningful savings for all Americans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
ASHRAE
Big Ass Solutions
Efficiency First
Energy Future Coalition
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Home Performance Coalition
Institute for Market Transformation
Large Public Power Council
National Association of Energy Service Companies
National Association of State Energy Officials
Seattle City Light
The Stella Group, Ltd.
U.S. Green Building Council

cc: Chairwoman and Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources