

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 6, 2007

The Honorable Rob Portman
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Director Portman and Secretary Bodman:

As you shape the Department of Energy spending plan for the FY 2007 Continuing Resolution, we urge you to provide no less than \$254.5 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the amount provided in the House-passed Energy and Water Appropriations Act for FY 2007 (HR 5427). In addition, we urge you to provide \$49.5 million for the State Energy Program (SEP), which matches the amount requested in the president's FY 2007 budget proposal.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled by improving the energy efficiency of low-income housing. In 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% 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 15 million barrels of oil every year.

The State Energy Program (SEP) improves the energy efficiency of schools, hospitals, small businesses, farms, and industries. In addition, state energy offices handle the crucial energy emergency preparedness functions for states, including planning for potential terrorist attacks. Funding SEP at the President's requested level, \$49.5 million, will enable states to meet the demands of increased security and to continue and expand their invaluable work to promote the application of energy efficiency for all Americans. SEP provides significant energy savings – for every dollar invested in the program \$7.22 is saved in energy costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Senator Jack Reed

Senator Robert C. Byrd

Senator Olympia J. Snowe

March 6, 2007

Senator John F. Kerry

Senator Christopher J. Dodd



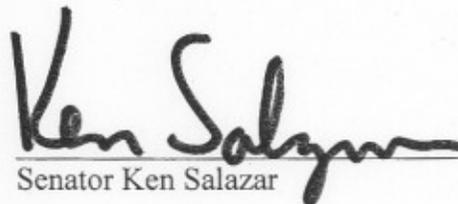
Senator Barack Obama

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton

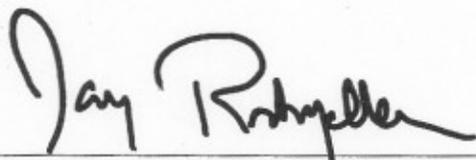
Senator Charles E. Schumer

Senator Evan Bayh

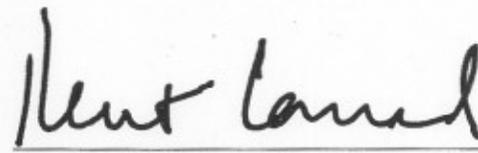
Senator Sherrod Brown



Senator Ken Salazar

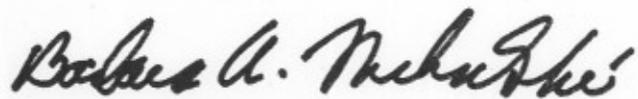


Senator John D. Rockefeller IV

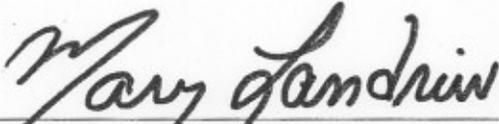


Senator Kent Conrad

Senator Blanche L. Lincoln



Senator Barbara A. Mikulski



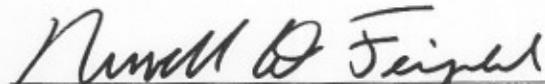
Senator Mary I. Landrieu



Senator Mark L. Pryor



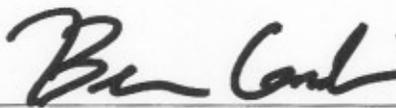
Senator Ron Wyden



Senator Russell D. Feingold

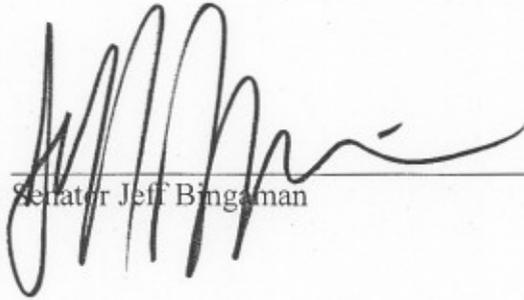
Senator David K. Akaka

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman



Senator Benjamin L. Cardin

Senator Amy Klobuchar

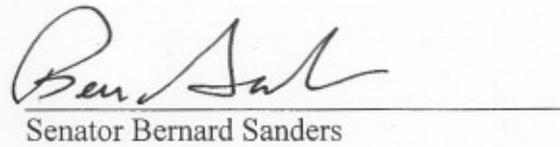


Senator Jeff Bingaman



Senator George V. Voinovich

Senator Robert Menendez



Senator Bernard Sanders

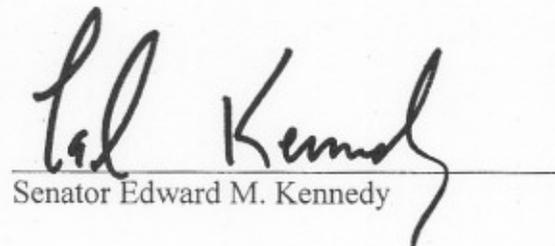


Senator Susan M. Collins

Senator Richard J. Durbin

Senator Patrick Leahy

Senator Richard G. Lugar



Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Senator Herb Kohl

Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Carl Levin