

February 1, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairwoman  
Energy and Water Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
Energy and Water Subcommittee  
U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Subcommittee  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Water Subcommittee  
U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwomen Feinstein and Kaptur and Ranking Members Kennedy and Simpson:

We write today to urge your support for completing work on Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations and including \$20 million for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Building Energy Codes Program within the Energy and Water appropriations bill.

During the Senate's mark-up of S. 2605, we were particularly pleased to see language added on a bipartisan basis to Senate Report 117-36 that increased funding for DOE's Building Energy Codes Program from \$10 million to \$20 million. As the bill's report notes, these funds help to "increase training, including certifications, and provide technical assistance to states, local governments, regional collaboratives, workforce development providers, homebuilders, office builders, architects and engineers, and other organizations that develop, adopt, or assist with the adoption or compliance with model building energy codes and standards to improve energy efficiency and resilience." This funding level would help ensure the Department is able to meet growing demand from state and local governments for updated, locally-tailored analyses, evaluations, and compliance tools for builders and code officials, the development of which requires significant investments by both the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and DOE.

PNNL anticipates that the successful implementation of energy codes would yield significant consumer and environmental benefits. In July 2021, PNNL found that energy code updates could save consumers \$138 billion from 2010 through 2040 and provide 900 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> savings.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the analysis from PNNL, DOE has also observed that energy efficiency is a low-cost resource across the country that can reduce household energy costs regardless of a given state's climate, heating fuel, and energy price factors. Ensuring these benefits are carried forward across the U.S. is particularly important given high energy bills have disproportionate impacts for families on and below the poverty line. Middle-income and high-income ratepayers spend 1 to 5 percent of their income on energy bills, whereas low-income customers face energy burdens from 6 to 30 percent or more depending on their state of residence.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, *Impacts of Model Building Energy Codes – Interim Update* (July 2021), [https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical\\_reports/PNNL-31437.pdf](https://www.pnnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-31437.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Thompson, Adrienne L., *Protecting Low-Income Ratepayers and the Electricity System Evolves*, Energy Law Journal (Dec. 2016), <https://www.eba-net.org/assets/1/6/6-18-265-305-Thompson - FINAL 0.pdf>.

For all these reasons, and to more fully realize the benefits state and locally-adopted energy codes can provide for consumers and the environment, we strongly urge your support for including \$20 million for DOE's Building Energy Codes Program within the FY22 Energy and Water appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy  
American Society of Interior Designers  
ASHRAE  
Covestro  
DuPont  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
E4The Future  
Institute for Market Transformation  
International Code Council  
Knauf Insulation  
National Association for State Community Services Programs  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
North American Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Owens Corning  
Polyisocyanurate insulation Manufacturers Association  
U.S. Green Building Council