

April 15, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairs Simpson, Murkowski, Fleischmann, and Kennedy and Ranking Members
Pingree, Merkley, Kaptur, and Murray:

We write as a coalition of organizations that support energy efficiency to thank you for fully funding the ENERGY STAR program in Fiscal Year 2026 and to urge you to continue that funding in Fiscal Year 2027. At a time when rising power demand and energy costs have become top economic concerns, ENERGY STAR is more important than ever.

The FY 2026 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act directed at least \$33,024,000 in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding to ENERGY STAR¹, roughly even with recent years' funding but significantly lower than funding levels a decade ago, and less than the \$36 million in the initial FY26 Senate bill.

Shortly thereafter, the EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on March 3, 2026, to move primary oversight of ENERGY STAR to DOE. While we defer to Congress on next steps regarding the oversight of the transition, we urge you to be clear and direct in appropriating full funding for the program, whether at DOE or EPA.

Given the critical need to maintain continuity of ENERGY STAR operations, we urge you to provide FY27 funding of \$36 million, and to include funding in legislative text, as was done in the FY26 bill. ENERGY STAR has lost a significant amount of staff, institutional knowledge and contracted capacity, and it will require reliable, dedicated funding and clear Congressional direction to ensure the program can continue delivering its incredible benefits to the American people.

ENERGY STAR is a unique public-private partnership established under President George H.W. Bush that saves consumers and businesses billions of dollars per year on energy costs simply by providing trusted, reliable information. It covers not only consumer products but also homes, manufacturing facilities and commercial buildings, generating an incredible return on investment for the U.S. economy and energy system.

In 2020 alone, according to the EPA, ENERGY STAR saved some 520 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, equivalent to about 12 percent of total U.S. demand. This is a massive amount of power demand removed from the grid at a remarkably low cost. As energy demand rises across the economy, including from emerging AI data centers and advanced manufacturing, ENERGY STAR helps reduce unnecessary consumption and manage system-wide demand, and its certified data centers offer a proven model for high-efficiency operations that can ease pressure on the grid as larger facilities come online.

At the same time, the baked-in reduction in energy consumption from ENERGY STAR products adds up to significant cost savings for consumers, freeing up household income to be spent elsewhere in the economy. According to the EPA, ENERGY STAR saves

¹ Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026. <https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ74/PLAW-119publ74.pdf>

consumers and businesses more than \$40 billion per year on energy bills, with cumulative savings of more than \$500 billion going back to its founding in 1992.

ENERGY STAR's outsized impact is driven by its popularity, demonstrated by the following statistics:

- Americans purchased more than 300 million ENERGY STAR products in 2021.
- U.S. Homebuilders built some 320,000 ENERGY STAR homes in 2024, or more than 20% of all new housing starts.
- More than 330,000 commercial buildings use EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool to measure and track their energy and water use, representing more than a quarter of all commercial floorspace in the U.S.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact Ben Evans, federal legislative director at the U.S. Green Building Council, at bevans@usgbc.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Institute of Architects
ASHRAE
American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)
American Supply Association
Building Performance Association
Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE)
Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association (CIMA)
Clean Energy Business Network
Conservation Law Foundation
Consumer Reports
Corn Refiners Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)
International WELL Building Institute (IWBI)
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Glass Association

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)

NSF

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors - National Association

Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Third Way

UL Solutions

U.S. Green Building Council

Virginia Energy Efficiency Council

CC:

Office of Sen. Susan Collins, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

Office of Sen. Patty Murray, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

Office of Rep. Tom Cole, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

Office of Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Appropriations