

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski,

As Congress considers the Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Bill for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, we write to request that you establish an individual line item for the ENERGY STAR program in the Environmental Programs and Management account with a funding level of \$50 million. ENERGY STAR is a vital program that saves American families, businesses, and consumers billions of dollars annually. Despite its measurable return on investment, we have witnessed a concerning decline in funding for the program in recent years. Congress has a responsibility to uplift and adequately fund ENERGY STAR so we can maintain the substantial energy efficiency benefits supported by the program.

ENERGY STAR is an important, voluntary, market-based program that underpins countless energy efficiency programs across the country and saves consumers billions of dollars annually. By allowing products that meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-established energy efficiency standards to display an ENERGY STAR logo, the program alerts consumers when products will save them money and reduce their energy usage. ENERGY STAR also provides services for improving the energy efficiency of commercial buildings, homes, and manufacturing facilities, including the ENERGY STAR Retail Products Platform (ESRPP). Since 1992, the program has eliminated 4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and saved American ratepayers more than \$500 billion, including \$42 billion in 2020 alone.¹ Moreover, every Federal dollar spent on the program has resulted in \$230 invested by American businesses and households in energy efficient infrastructure.²

Despite these tangible benefits and substantial return on investment, funding for the program has steadily declined. ENERGY STAR funding fell from \$54 million to \$36.7 million in the decade between Fiscal Years 2010-2020. In Fiscal Year 2023,³ the program received just \$33 million. As families and small businesses struggle to make ends meet and climate change continues to threaten our communities, the cost savings and efficiency benefits that ENERGY STAR provides are more important than ever.

¹ ENERGY STAR, *ENERGY STAR Impacts* (online at: <https://www.energystar.gov/about/impacts>).

² Ibid.

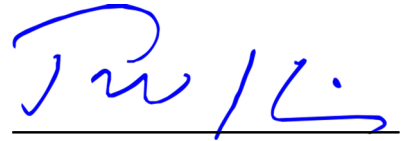
³ Fiscal Year 2023 is the most recent year from which funding data is available for the ENERGY STAR program.

We again urge you to support our request to create an ENERGY STAR line item and to fund the program at \$50 million for Fiscal Year 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,




Peter Welch
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



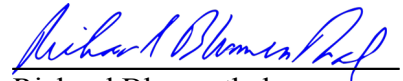
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United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



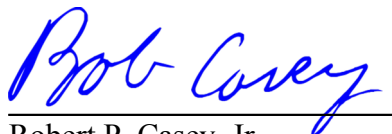
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



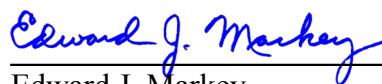
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



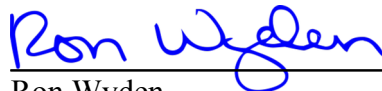
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