



December 15, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable James Michael Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Interim Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair,  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
413 Dirksen Senate Office  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwomen  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Interim Chair Murray, Chairwoman Granger, Vice-chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Alliance to Save Energy writes in opposition to proposed energy efficiency cuts outlined in the FY 2024 Department of Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies funding bill, HR 4394. We also write in opposition to proposed cuts in HR 4821, the FY 2024 appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies governing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The proposed appropriation levels, if finalized, would have a direct and negative impact on energy affordability, grid reliability, emission reductions, and energy security.

The Alliance to Save Energy (Alliance) is a leading non-profit, bipartisan energy efficiency policy organization consisting of a coalition of manufacturers, utilities, technology companies, environmental advocates, and others who are committed to advancing the role of energy efficiency in U.S. energy policy, and its value in achieving energy affordability, grid reliability, emissions reductions, and energy security.

The House-passed Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill, HR 4394, would reduce the Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy appropriations by \$1.5 billion from FY 2023 levels, constituting a 42% decrease. These cuts would directly impact the ability of moderate and low-income Americans to access more efficient appliances and heating and cooling equipment for their homes and their ability to reduce their monthly energy bills. Particularly impacted would be the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), a vital initiative aimed at assisting our nation's lowest-income families in reducing energy costs.

The bill's key provisions include \$4.5 billion in cuts from the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program, \$1 billion from the Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption, and \$200 million from the State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants. Moreover, the bill would revoke \$15 billion in loan authority from the Department of Energy's Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, an increasingly successful initiative promoting climate-mitigation innovation within American manufacturing. Also of note, the House-passed proposal would limit energy efficiency standards impacting electric grid distribution transformers, residential clothes washers, and conventional cooking products.

The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill, HR 4821, also proposes similar deep reductions. The House-passed language proposes funding levels of \$13.4 billion below FY 2023 appropriations. The proposed bill also allocates a total of \$6.1 billion for the EPA, marking a \$3.9 billion decrease from FY 2023 funding levels, resulting in the agency's lowest funding level since 1991. This would severely impact EPA's ability to implement and strengthen energy efficiency investments. Key provisions within the bill include cutting \$7.8 billion allocated for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.<sup>1</sup> This reduction jeopardizes funds intended to increase energy efficiency investments and drive down consumer energy costs, particularly impacting low-income and disadvantaged communities. The purpose of these investments is to reduce energy consumption and costs, lower carbon emissions, and add greater reliability to the nation's energy systems.

Energy efficiency initiatives such as DOE's rebate programs and EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund are designed to ensure that the energy transition and expansion include vulnerable communities in rural and urban America— with a particular focus on lowering energy costs for moderate to low-income and disadvantaged communities, where energy burdens are often three times higher than for non-low-income households.<sup>2</sup> According to 2022 U.S. Census data released in late 2023, some 16.7 million White Americans live in poverty, in addition to 10.8 million Hispanics, 7.6 million African Americans, and 1.9 million Asians.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, of those in poverty, 37.9 million live outside metropolitan statistical areas, compared to 31.4 million living inside metropolitan statistical areas.<sup>4</sup> Meeting the energy needs of low-income families in rural and urban parts of the country must be a policy priority for Congress as families experience the adverse effects of fluctuating energy prices and a changing climate.<sup>5</sup>

Energy efficiency yields immediate benefits for consumers and the nation, including but not limited to lowering energy consumption, creating energy cost savings and affordability, adding greater reliability to U.S. energy systems, and strengthening energy security. But for U.S. energy efficiency investments made since 1980,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/118/bills/hr4821/BILLS-118hr4821rh.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/scep/slsc/low-income-community-energy-solutions#:~:text=According%20to%20DOE%27s%20Low%2DIncome,be%20as%20high%20as%2030%25.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://federalsafetynet.com/poverty-statistics/>.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/u1806.pdf>.

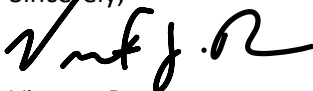
energy consumption in 2021 would have been 78% higher;<sup>6</sup> and energy efficiency investments since 1980 have resulted in significant bill savings, equaling approximately \$800 billion annually, through 2020.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, according to DOE, energy efficiency reduces the amount of electricity on the grid at one time, lowering grid demand, and increasing grid reliability.<sup>8</sup> This lowered demand also results in lower U.S. energy consumption overall, reducing reliance of foreign imports, and playing a critical role in long-term and short-term energy security.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, energy efficiency is a key and necessary pillar for lowering carbon emissions. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), energy efficiency alone can achieve 40% of the emission reductions required by the Paris Agreement. Of note, U.S. emissions would have been 78% higher in 2021, but for energy efficiency investments made since 1980.<sup>10</sup>

The significance and value of energy efficiency to U.S. energy policy is clear: Energy efficiency is the fastest and least expensive strategy to achieve emission reductions; energy efficiency lowers energy costs and makes energy more affordable; and energy efficiency is necessary to achieve greater grid reliability and national energy security. As Congress continues to finalize FY 2024 appropriations levels, the Alliance urges you to recognize the value of energy efficiency to U.S. energy policy, and to fund related programs to at least FY 2023 levels.

We thank you for your leadership on these important issues. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [vbarnes@ase.org](mailto:vbarnes@ase.org).

Sincerely,



Vincent Barnes

Senior Vice President, Policy, Research, and Analysis  
Alliance to Save Energy

CC:

The Honorable John Kennedy, Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chair, House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Honorable Tom Carper, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

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<sup>6</sup> <https://energyefficiencyimpact.org/dashboard/>.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/eere/energy-efficiency-buildings-and-industry>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.iea.org/reports/multiple-benefits-of-energy-efficiency/energy-security>.

<sup>10</sup> <https://energyefficiencyimpact.org/dashboard/>.

Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Jeff Marootian, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)  
Kevin Bailey, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs