

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Charles Bass  
United States House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Matheson  
United States House of Representatives  
2434 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Bass and Matheson,

As a broad coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, and public interest and faith based groups, we applaud your introduction of the Smart Energy Act of 2012 (H.R. 4017), and look forward to working with you to ensure that this important bipartisan measure is enacted into law.

Wasted energy is an obvious costly drag on the economy. As we emerge from the economic recession, it bears re-emphasizing that energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest and cleanest way to meet our nation's energy demands.

As the nation's greatest energy consumer, the federal government – which spends in excess of \$7 billion annually to heat, cool and operate its more than 500,000 buildings and facilities – should play a unique role in promoting energy efficiency. By targeting this portion of the federal government's energy usage and providing additional opportunities for private sector utilization of energy efficient technologies and systems, the Smart Energy Act would help improve U.S. energy efficiency, reducing costs for consumers and businesses and making American industry more competitive and lessening our dependence on imported sources of energy at a critical time.

Toward those ends, H.R. 4017 would reduce barriers for the federal government, businesses and consumers seeking to adopt off-the-shelf energy efficiency technologies that will save money by:

- Expanding the federal government's use of energy savings performance contracts to meet existing energy management requirements and support the deployment of electric vehicles or electric vehicle supply equipment;
- Requiring the federal government to participate in demand response programs, adopt energy-saving techniques via computers, implement better building standards and advanced metering and benchmark energy use through data collection and management practices;
- Boosting private sector investments in building efficiency upgrades by enlarging the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program;
- Helping manufacturers reduce energy use and increase competitiveness by creating collaborative research and commercialization partnerships within DOE to promote innovative manufacturing processes; and
- Establishing a strategic plan to double the production of electricity from combined heat and power and waste heat recovery by 2020.

Without the numerous energy efficiency improvements made since 1973, the United States would be using 50 percent more energy to power the economy. And even with those efficiency gains, our nation's energy requirements are still projected to increase about 20 percent by 2035, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.<sup>1</sup>

We recognize the significant challenges facing the federal government, yet we strongly believe that your legislation should be considered as a component of our continuing efforts to alleviate the country's economic, environmental and security problems associated with growing energy use. Moreover, the Smart Energy Act would apply practical, cost-effective measures to tackle federal energy consumption, and spur private sector utilization of energy efficiency technologies and systems. It would also help create new jobs and assist those American families and businesses who are struggling to lower their energy expenses.

We commend you again for your leadership in developing this proposal, and offer our support to help enact this measure in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy  
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy  
American Institutes of Architects  
American Public Power Association  
ASHRAE  
Center for the Celebration of Creation  
Ceres  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)  
Colorado Green Building Guild  
Council on North American Insulation Manufacturers Association  
Danfoss  
Demand Response and Smart Grid Coalition (DRSG)  
Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign  
Earth Day Network  
Energy Future Coalition  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Federal Performance Contracting Coalition  
FlexEnergy Inc.  
Fresh Energy  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Honeywell  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Ingersoll Rand Company  
Institute for Market Transformation

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<sup>1</sup> Alliance to Save Energy, America's Greatest Resource, 2011. <http://ase.org/resources/energy-efficiency-americas-greatest-energy-resource>.

Intel Corporation  
Interfaith Power & Light  
Johnson Controls Incorporated  
Legrand  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance  
National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)  
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)  
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)  
National Grid  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Owens Corning  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Panasonic Corporation of North America  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA)  
Rebuilding Together  
Republicans for Environmental Protection  
Schneider Electric  
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association  
Siemens  
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
The Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing  
The Dow Chemical Company  
The Stella Group, Ltd.  
U.S. Clean Heat & Power Association  
U.S. Green Building Council  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Technologies Corporation  
Utah Clean Energy