

May 15, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell,

As a broad coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, and public interest groups, we urge you to bring the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 761) to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

As the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to tackle domestic energy demand, energy efficiency measures contribute more toward meeting this need than any other resource. Wasted energy not only weakens our national competitiveness on a global scale, but also compounds the financial burdens of businesses and consumers while making our energy systems less resilient. Without the numerous energy efficiency improvements made since 1973, the United States would require an additional 50 percent more energy to power the current economy.¹

We strongly believe that S. 761 would help meet America's goals of increasing energy productivity, enhancing energy security, reducing harmful emissions and promoting economic growth in a financially responsible manner. Sponsored by Senators Shaheen and Portman, this bipartisan bill, which was favorably reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee earlier this month, would apply practical, cost-effective measures to address energy consumption, and spur private sector utilization of energy efficiency technologies across the residential, commercial and industrial segments of the economy.

It is also important to note that the assessment of the energy savings and jobs generated by the previously considered version of this legislation (S. 1000) that was conducted last year by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) still applies to the current bill (S. 761) as it contains several similar provisions. The 2012 analysis estimates that by 2030 the Shaheen-Portman bill would save American households and businesses \$20 billion annually in cumulative net energy costs and create 159,000 net domestic jobs. ACEEE's report also indicates that the measure (S. 1000) would cut the amount of carbon dioxide emitted in the United States by 108 million metric tons in 2030, which would be the equivalent of removing more than 21 million cars off the road.

Energy efficiency has always been a bipartisan issue. Moreover, it helps facilitate the manufacture and deployment of products and systems at home rather than abroad, results in exceptional savings for businesses and consumers that pay for themselves relatively quickly, and affords Congress the opportunity to assist the economy without undue cost or regulatory burden

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

at this critical moment. For these reasons, we urge you to schedule the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency initiative for a vote on the floor in the near future so that Americans can begin reaping the benefits this proposal would yield.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
ABM
Acuity Brands
ASHRAE
Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI)
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Ceres
Conservation Services Group
Digital Energy and Sustainable Solutions Campaign
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Habitat for Humanity International
Illuminating Engineering Society
Ingersoll Rand
Institute for Market Transformation
Interfaith Power and Light
Knauf Insulation
Large Public Power Council
Legrand
Masco Corporation
National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)
National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
National Grid
NW Energy Coalition
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Rebuilding Together
Rinnai
Schneider Electric
Seattle City Light
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southern Environmental Law Center
The Dow Chemical Company
The Stella Group, Ltd.
U.S. Green Building Council
Vinyl Siding Institute, Inc.