United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to urge you to immediately issue Program Year 2026 guidance for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and State Energy Program (SEP) to ensure the uninterrupted operation of both programs.

WAP and SEP provide vital formula funding to all 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia to address energy affordability, reliability, and security. WAP provides states with funding to weatherize homes for low-income Americans, saving participants on average $372 on utility bills every year. Conserving energy helps participating households devote their income to other essentials such as food and medicine. SEP provides funding to help states improve energy security, increase energy efficiency, and boost economic growth.

DOE typically publishes annual Weatherization Program Notices in December of the prior year to provide state offices adequate time for planning, public comment periods, and DOE approval ahead of April 1 and July 1 Program Year start dates. Similarly, DOE typically publishes annual State Energy Program grant applications in February. However, DOE still has not issued WAP nor SEP application guidance. Without these instructions, state offices do not have necessary information to develop and submit plans, creating uncertainty for program timelines, targets, and workforce planning. Continued delays could cause severe program disruptions, including state program pauses and weatherization network layoffs for subgrantees and home weatherization contractors.

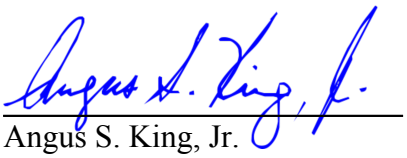
To avoid further delays to program start dates, we urge you to not only immediately release this guidance, but to also speed state application approvals and the release of appropriated funds. DOE regulations require the agency to approve or deny timely filed WAP and SEP applications within 60 days. We urge you to speed this review period to minimize adverse impacts on state programs.

By expeditiously deploying WAP and SEP formula funds, the Department can make an important difference in improving the reliability of the grid and in helping reduce the burden on Americans who struggle to pay their energy bills. Thank you for your attention to our concerns and those of our constituents, and we look forward to working with you on these vital programs.

Sincerely,

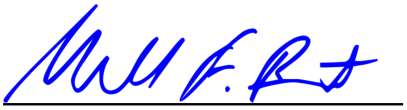
Jack Reed
United States Senator

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

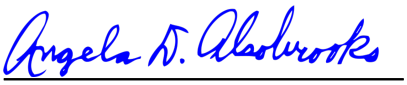


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

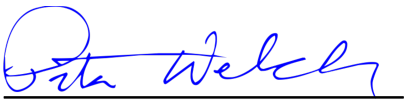


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



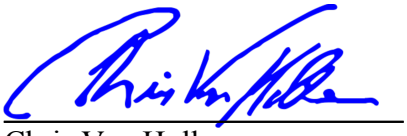
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



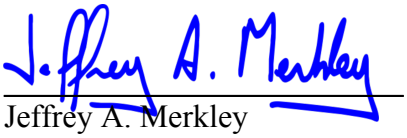
Peter Welch
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

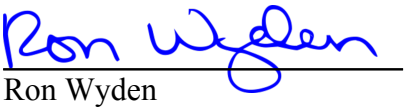


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

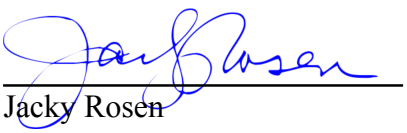


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

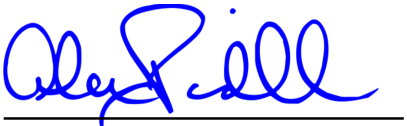


Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
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