June 9, 2011

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen and Senator Portman,

We the undersigned represent a broad-based coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, public interest organizations and faith organizations.

We commend your work on the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2011, which was introduced on May 12, 2011. Your bill will help to deploy energy efficiency across all sectors of our economy; save consumers and businesses money, help make us more competitive globally and reduce our dependence on imported sources of energy at a critical time. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to see that this important legislation is enacted into law.

We specifically commend those provisions in your bill that will help to drive job creation. For example, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act will include a state partnership manufacturing revolving loan fund to finance investments in manufacturing process equipment though the issuance of federal bonds. With this fund, domestic manufacturers can fine-tune their equipment, reduce utility related overheads, and strengthen their bottom-line.

Your legislation would also advance targets for national model building energy codes. Buildings currently consume 40% of all energy used in the United States. The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act would support regular updates to the existing national model building codes. Building codes help investors overcome the market barriers that impede energy savings in this sector, and reduce energy costs for businesses.

Similarly, appliance standards provisions contained within the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act will cut home energy costs to consumers by $43 billion through 2030.[1] Existing federal appliance standards have saved taxpayers more than $300 billion in energy bills and reduced national energy use by 3.6% annually. This provision is identical to S. 398, which was recently reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with a bipartisan 18-4 vote.

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act also contains a provision based on the Rural Star legislation which was passed by the House of Representatives last year. This program would create a loan program through rural public utilities and electric cooperatives to finance energy efficiency improvements for rural utility customers. Sponsors of the original bill estimate that it will create 20,000 to 40,000 jobs to conduct and implement these energy improvements.

[1] American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy & Appliance Standards Awareness Project, Appliance and Equipment Efficiency Standards: A Money Maker and Job Creator. January 2011. http://www.standardsasap.org/documents/A111.pdf

Another important bill from last session, Supply Star, is also included in the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act. This bill was reported favorably by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Supply Star would promote energy efficiency improvements throughout the supply chain, including savings from product sourcing, development, distribution, use and disposal. This bill would provide crucial support to small businesses in reducing unnecessary energy expenditures.

As the nation's largest energy consumer, it is critically important that the federal government lead by example. The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act contains several provisions which will improve the energy efficiency of federal agencies. Rather than squandering taxpayer's dollars on needless energy costs, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act implements practical, cost effective measures to tackle federal energy consumption. These provisions include personal computer power saving techniques, advanced metering, building upgrades and more.

By fully deploying the power of energy efficiency, we can help create new jobs, save energy, save money, and reduce carbon emissions. Energy efficiency takes effect faster than other policies designed to address our energy needs. Well designed programs such as those contained in the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act will help those American families and businesses who are struggling today to lower their energy costs. Moreover, energy efficiency policies offer Americans protection from rising energy costs caused by political instability abroad, and moves us towards energy independence. We again commend your leadership in developing this comprehensive package, and offer our support in helping to advance this important bill toward enactment by the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

Acuity Brands
Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
Alliance to Save Energy
American Chemistry Council
American Council for an Energy-Efficient-Economy
American Institute of Architects
Anvil Knitwear
Aspen Skiing Company
Association of Pool & Spa Professionals
Association of State Energy Research and-Technology Transfer Institutions
AT&T
Boulder Green Building Guild
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Business for Innovative Climate and Energy-Policy
Capital E
Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
CLC Associates
Clean Air-Cool Planet
Clean Water Action
Climate Solutions
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Services Group
Consumers Union
Copper Development Association
Council of North American Insulation-Manufactures
Danfoss
Digital Energy Solutions Campaign
Direct Energy
Dow Chemical Company
DwellTek Home Energy Solutions
Earth Day Network
Earthjustice
Eastern Mountain Sports
eBay Inc.
EDA Architecture
Eileen Fisher
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Energy Future Coalition
Energy Platforms

EnLink GeoEnergy
Environment America
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Federal Performance Contracting Coalition
FlexEnergy
Fresh Energy
Green Building Initiative
Green Strategies, Inc.
Guardian Industries Corp
Honeywell
Ingersoll Rand
Institute for Sustainable Communities
Intel
Interfaith Power and Light
International Copper Association
Johns Manville
Johnson Controls
Knauf Insulation
League of Conservation Voters
Legrand
Levi Strauss and Co.
Masco Corporation
National Association for State Community-Services Programs
National Association of Energy Service-Companies
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Northwest Energy Efficiency Council
NW Energy Coalition
Ohio Business Council for a Clean Economy
Oregon Environmental Council
Orion Energy Systems
Outdoor Industry Association
Owens Corning
Panasonic Corporation of North America
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers-Association
Rebuilding Together
Republicans for Environmental Protection
Rinnai
Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.
Schneider Electric
Siemens Corporation
Sierra Club
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Stonyfield Farm
Symantec
TE Connectivity
The Stella Group, Ltd.
U.S. Clean Heat & Power Association
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Technologies Corporation
Utah Clean Energy
Watkins Manufacturing
Whirlpool Corporation
World Wildlife Fund