



# High Performance Building Coalition

*Where building professionals from communities across the country come together with policymakers to consider and advocate for national policies that advanced high performance buildings*

## **Support for FY2017 and FY2018 Funding for ENERGY STAR®**

June 21, 2016

Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Ken Calvert, Chair  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Tom Udall, Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Betty McCollum, Ranking  
Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and  
Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our strong support for the ENERGY STAR® program in its current ownership by the Environmental Protection Agency of the US Government and to oppose the cuts and outsourcing proposed by the President's budget outline.

This voluntary labeling program, begun in 1992, has become the symbol for energy efficiency in buildings across the United States. ENERGY STAR is at the core of many of our programs and has saved consumers \$362 billion dollars in the twenty-five years since its inception for the relatively modest investment of \$50 million annually in federal funding.

ENERGY STAR today, situated within the federal government, provides taxpayers with the assurance that this program is maintained in an objective and impartial manner. A quarter-century of investment by the EPA has given the public a level of trust that would not be possible under any other entity. It is important to note that this is not a regulatory program that the federal government has forced upon the public. Rather, this is a public-private partnership that is built upon the trust of the federal government that is then embraced by private industry.

This is especially true within the built environment. A building with an ENERGY STAR label is instantly recognizable by the public as one that meets national standards for energy efficiency and building performance. There is no question about whose label it is or what a building owner had to pay in order to obtain it.

It has been said that “you can’t manage what you don’t measure.” That’s why EPA created ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager®, a free online tool released in 2000 that can be used to measure and track energy and water consumption. This no-cost tool is used by private and public owners alike to track building energy and water usage data. The collection of data enables building owners to make smart, cost-effective decisions when investing in energy efficiency improvements.

Today, seventeen years after ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager made its debut, forty percent of U.S. commercial building space has already been benchmarked with this free online tool — making it the industry-leading benchmarking instrument. Twenty-four US cities, two counties, and two states have adopted energy use benchmarking laws or ordinances that rely upon Portfolio Manager as the tool of choice in order to function. Additionally, Portfolio Manager is used by the Canadian Government as the platform for their national energy benchmarking program for existing commercial and institutional buildings. The tool also allows owners to comply with these local laws and ordinances that require certain types of buildings to track and report energy and water usage data. Eliminating or outsourcing the tool would place an expensive and unnecessary burden on public and private building owners to develop their own tools, resulting in confusion and lowering the public’s trust in the credibility of the measured data.

As you make budget decisions for Federal Fiscal Year 2018, we urge you to maintain ENERGY STAR at its current level and under its current ownership.

Thank you for your consideration.

The High Performance Building Coalition  
Association of Energy Engineers  
ASHRAE  
Copper Development Association  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Illuminating Engineering Society  
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association  
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)  
Tile Roofing Institute  
Underwriters Laboratories (UL)