

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 09, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
Chair, Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Chairman Manchin:

As the House and Senate consider additional infrastructure investments through budget reconciliation, we write in strong support of our merged policies that will lower American households' energy burden in every zip code, create millions of well-paying local jobs, improve indoor air quality, and be critical to our climate crisis response.

We have worked over several weeks to merge the HOPE for HOMES Act and the Zero-Emission Homes Act. As you know, the HOPE for HOMES Act would provide resources to State Energy Offices to incentivize deep energy efficiency retrofits in households across the country and invest in training programs to support the development of the energy efficiency workforce. And the Zero-Emission Homes Act would enable American families to afford clean and efficient appliances through point-of-sale rebates.

Together, these investments would provide American families with a voluntary and tech-neutral path to reducing their energy bills and associated emissions. They combine direct emissions reductions with kitchen table relief for American families. If funded at the right levels, they will benefit millions of households, in every region of the country, and will put us on the only realistic path to hit our reduced emission targets.

These investments work together and are dependent on each other to successfully transition to a net-zero residential energy sector. We write today to emphasize their codependent importance in advancing economic, health, energy, and climate security for all Americans. We respectfully ask that neither policy be sacrificed in negotiations. We also write to emphasize just how important it is for these programs to be funded adequately. With a \$20 billion allocation, these programs could retrofit up to 7.5 million homes and achieve direct annual emissions reductions of 10 MMT.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent report revealed an alarming, worldwide, scientific consensus view that disastrous climate warming is irreversible in this century and aggressive action must be taken immediately to lower the level of the catastrophe. Against this backdrop, the Senate has made impressive bipartisan infrastructure progress on grid technology, the connective tissue between the supply and demand sides of our

energy sector. The crucial missing piece to the puzzle is the rest of the demand side, particularly the residential building sector.

Forty-two percent of residential emissions come from decisions made around our kitchen tables: what cars we drive, how we heat and cool our homes, how we insulate them, how we heat our water, how we dry our clothes, and how we power it all. The good news is that we have the technology, machines, and materials to help American households through this transition – machines that work in nearly every part of the country, from Alaska to Florida. Our combined legislation lays out the investments to do it, driving a market transition to lower consumer costs as demand increases.

Importantly, installing and maintaining a new fleet of appliances and equipment would also create hundreds of thousands of local jobs. This is precisely why the workforce development component is so important: it provides the resources to train the next generation of clean energy workers and place them in careers that are shielded from being offshored or automated. Finally, our combined legislation recognizes the need to address moderate income families who require additional help making this transition, providing higher rebates to those who cannot access weatherization assistance but still need support investing in advanced, efficient technologies.

For all of the above reasons, we urge you to make these combined building efficiency and electrification investments, and investments in workforce development needed to employ millions in this transition, a top priority for funding as negotiations continue.

Respectfully,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator