

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2025

Mr. Lee M. Zeldin  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
12000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Chris A. Wright  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Administrator Zeldin and Secretary Wright,

For over three decades, the ENERGY STAR program has lowered Americans' energy bills by informing consumers about energy efficient products. The program has enjoyed bipartisan support since its creation under authority of Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, most recently receiving \$35.7 million in fiscal year 2025 appropriations.<sup>1</sup> Reporting has indicated, however, that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to eliminate ENERGY STAR without Congressional approval.<sup>2</sup> Not only is the program protected under federal statute and thus illegal for the Administration to terminate unilaterally, but this decision also lacks basic economic sense.<sup>3</sup> We write to urge you to immediately reverse course.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary, market-based program that has saved consumers billions of dollars annually. The average American household is projected to save \$450 on utility bills each year simply by choosing ENERGY STAR certified products.<sup>4</sup> Since 1992, the program has reduced energy costs for American families and businesses by \$500 billion, including \$42 billion worth of savings in 2020 alone.<sup>5</sup> All told, for every federal dollar spent on ENERGY STAR, Americans have enjoyed \$350 in savings.<sup>6</sup> This does not account for the broader economic and environmental benefits of the program, which has cumulatively reduced 4 billion metric tons of harmful emissions and currently supports more than 790,000 American jobs manufacturing and installing ENERGY STAR products.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, housing developers and homebuilders appreciate ENERGY STAR because it communicates better performance to prospective

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<sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service, *ENERGY STAR Program* (May 6, 2025) (IF10753) (online at: <https://crs.gov/reports/pdf/IF10753/IF10753.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> *E.P.A. Plans to Shut Down the Energy Star Program*, New York Times (May 6, 2025) (online at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/06/climate/epa-energy-star-eliminated.html>)

<sup>3</sup> ENERGY STAR is authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 6294a, which clearly states that “the Administrator and Secretary shall promote Energy Star compliant technologies as the preferred technologies in the marketplace for achieving energy efficiency and reducing pollution.”

<sup>4</sup> ENERGY STAR, *ENERGY STAR Impacts* (online at: <https://www.energystar.gov/about/impacts>)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

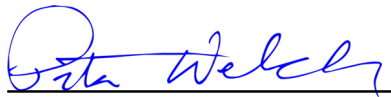
<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

homebuyers. Housing certified by the ENERGY STAR standard represents homes built to the highest standards, with lower energy bills that help make housing more affordable.<sup>8</sup>

ENERGY STAR is the epitome of an effective public-private partnership. As the program's administrators, EPA and the Department of Energy set qualifying energy efficiency standards for products. EPA also protects the integrity of the ENERGY STAR brand, ensuring it remains well-known, trusted, and indicative of a quality product.<sup>9</sup> Appliance manufacturers then voluntarily display the ENERGY STAR label, notifying consumers that a product will reduce their energy consumption and lower utility bills. The program strengthens consumer choice by sharing critical product information.<sup>10</sup>

Eliminating the ENERGY STAR program will not only raise energy costs for American families and businesses, but also inflict far-reaching economic harms, threatening industry jobs and the reliability of the grid at a time of growing demand. We again urge you to immediately reconsider eliminating this popular and effective Congressionally authorized program.

Sincerely,



Peter Welch  
United States Senator



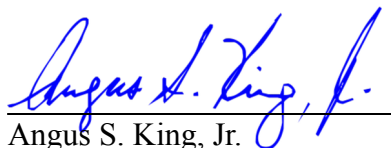
Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



John Fetterman  
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator

<sup>8</sup>

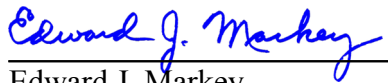
ENERGY STAR, *Energy Efficient New Homes and Apartments* (online at: <https://www.energystar.gov/newhomes>).

<sup>9</sup>

According to a 2022 report, 89% of households surveyed report that they recognize the iconic blue ENERGY STAR label while 84% responded that they understand the efficiency benefits it represents (EPA Office of Air and Radiation, *National Awareness of ENERGY STAR for 2022* (online at: [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/National\\_Awareness\\_of\\_ENERGY\\_STAR\\_2022.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/National_Awareness_of_ENERGY_STAR_2022.pdf))).

<sup>10</sup>

ENERGY STAR, *ENERGY STAR Impacts* (online at: <https://www.energystar.gov/about/impacts>)



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



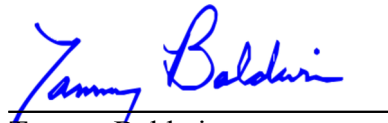
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



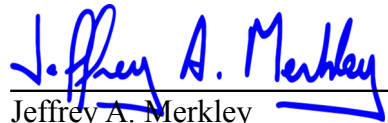
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



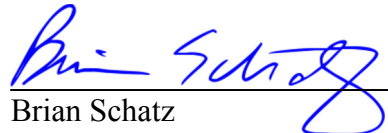
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



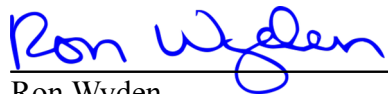
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator