

TESTIMONY OF DAVID TERRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ENERGY OFFICIALS, BEFORE THE SENATE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF FY'21 U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FUNDING

March 6, 2020

Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Udall, and members of the Subcommittee, I am David Terry, Executive Director of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), which represents the 56 State and Territory Energy Directors and their Offices. NASEO is submitting this testimony in support of funding for the ENERGY STAR program (within the Climate Protection Partnership Division of the Office of Air and Radiation) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). NASEO supports funding of at least **\$60 million in FY'21, including specific report language directing that the funds be utilized only for the ENERGY STAR program. We are gravely concerned that senior management at EPA is both denigrating the value of ENERGY STAR, and also starving the program of both personnel and funding. The program received \$54 million a decade ago and is now down to \$38 million.** The ENERGY STAR program is successful, voluntary, and cost-effective. The program has a proven track record – it makes sense, it saves energy and money and Americans embrace it. ENERGY STAR helps consumers and businesses control expenditures over the long term. The program is strongly supported by product manufacturers, utilities, and homebuilders, and ENERGY STAR leverages the states' voluntary efficiency actions. Voluntary ENERGY STAR activities are occurring in public buildings, such as schools, in conjunction with State Energy Offices, in Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The proposed elimination of this program is a grave mistake. We also strongly oppose the creation of a “fee-based” funding model, which could erode the program's integrity. The states and the public utilize ENERGY STAR because it is seen as unbiased and delivers cost-saving benefits to businesses, consumers and state and local governments.

The ENERGY STAR program is focused on voluntary efforts that reduce the energy waste, promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy, and works with states, local governments, communities and business to achieve these goals in a cooperative, public-private manner. NASEO has worked closely with EPA and approximately 40 states are ENERGY STAR Partners. With very limited funding, EPA's ENERGY STAR program coordinates with the State Energy Offices to give consumers and businesses the opportunity and technical assistance tools to make better energy decisions and catalyzes product efficiency improvements by manufacturers without regulation or mandates. The program is voluntary.

ENERGY STAR focuses on energy-efficient products as well as buildings (e.g., residential, commercial, and industrial). Over 300 million ENERGY STAR qualified products were sold in 2016 alone. The ENERGY STAR label is recognized across the United States. Approximately 90 percent of households recognize the ENERGY STAR label. The manufacturing, installation, design, wholesale distribution, and provision of professional services related to ENERGY STAR

products employed almost 827,000 American workers in 2019. It makes the work of the State Energy Offices much easier, by engaging the public on easily-recognized products, services, and targets. In order to obtain the ENERGY STAR label, a product has to meet established guidelines. ENERGY STAR's voluntary partnership programs include ENERGY STAR Buildings, ENERGY STAR Homes, ENERGY STAR Small Business, and ENERGY STAR Labeled Products. The program operates by encouraging consumers and working closely with state and local governments to purchase these products and services.

Marketplace barriers are also eradicated through the ENERGY STAR program's collaborative approach to consumer education. State Energy Offices are working with EPA to promote ENERGY STAR products, ENERGY STAR for new construction, ENERGY STAR for public housing, etc. A successful example of how State Energy Offices are leveraging this key national program is the Nebraska Energy Office, which since 2005, has utilized ENERGY STAR as the standard for certifying home and office electronics that are eligible under the State's successful and long-running Dollar and Energy Savings Loan program. Another ENERGY STAR success is in the manufactured housing sector. States, such as South Carolina, offer modest rebates for ENERGY STAR manufactured homes in order to deliver both energy cost savings to homeowners and lower overall electric grid operation costs for all customers.

In 2016, millions of consumers and 16,000 voluntary partners, including manufacturers, builders, businesses, communities, and utilities, tapped the value of ENERGY STAR and achieved impressive financial and environmental results.

An estimated 91,000 energy efficiency home improvement projects were undertaken through the whole house retrofit program, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, in 2016.

More than 700 utilities, state, and local governments and non-profits utilize ENERGY STAR, as do 1,800 manufacturers.

The State Energy Offices are very encouraged by progress made at EPA and in our states to promote programs to make schools more energy-efficient, in addition to an expanding ENERGY STAR Business Partners program. In Kentucky, the state has partnered with school districts and engineering firms to advance ENERGY STAR-rated schools, resulting in more than 325 ENERGY STAR-rated schools in the state, a 67% increase since 2012. Over the past few years, Kentucky has moved aggressively to promote and build zero-net energy schools. Other states that have over 150 ENERGY STAR-rated schools include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Over 27 percent of Utah's K-12 schools are ENERGY STAR-rated.

EPA provides technical assistance to the State Energy Offices in such areas as ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (how to rate the performance of buildings), setting an energy target, and financing options for building improvements and building upgrade strategies. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is used extensively by State Energy Offices to benchmark performance of state and municipal buildings, saving taxpayer dollars. Portfolio Manager is the industry-leading benchmarking tool which has been used voluntarily in approximately 50% of the commercial buildings in the United States. Portfolio Manager is used to measure, track, assess, and report energy and water consumption.

Additionally, the industrial sector embraces ENERGY STAR and job-creating companies such as GM, Eastman Chemical, Nissan, Raytheon, Boeing, and Toyota are recognized for sustained energy excellence by the program. At the close of 2019, more than 750 U.S. industrial sites had committed to the ENERGY STAR Challenge for Industry, while 311 sites met or exceeded their targets by achieving an average 10% reduction in industrial energy efficiency within five or fewer years.

The State Energy Offices are working cooperatively with our peers in the state environmental agencies and state public utilities commissions to ensure that programs, regulations, projects and policies are developed recognizing both energy and environmental concerns. We have worked closely with this program at EPA to address these issues. We encourage these continued efforts.

### **Conclusion**

The ENERGY STAR program saves consumers billions of dollars every year. The payback and job creation benefits are enormous. NASEO supports robust program funding of at least \$60 million in FY'21. Funding for the ENERGY STAR program is justified. It is a solid public-private relationship that leverages resources, time and talent to produce tangible results by saving energy and money. NASEO endorses these activities and the State Energy Offices are working closely with EPA to cooperatively implement a variety of critical national programs without mandates.

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