SUPPORT THE TONKO/BASS AMENDMENT TO THE FY'12 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

July 11, 2011

Dear Representative:

The undersigned companies, organizations and associations all strongly urge you to support the bi-partisan Tonko/Bass amendment to restore funding for energy efficiency programs within the FY'12 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. If the country is serious about addressing our energy security concerns, reducing energy costs, promoting economic growth and domestic jobs and cutting oil imports, then we should not give up on energy efficiency programs. Energy efficiency is a cornerstone of a balanced energy policy.

The Tonko/Bass amendment would restore funding to the FY'11 levels for the Weatherization Assistance Program, the State Energy Program (SEP) and the Buildings Technology Program.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is the largest residential energy efficiency program in the nation. It reduces the energy burden on low-income families, the elderly and disabled, and creates jobs, invests in local businesses and advances technology. The 35% energy savings as a result of weatherizing homes under this program saves $437 in annual utility bills for the average homeowner.

SEP delivers extraordinary economic benefits to all sectors of the economy by working with the private sector in delivering key energy services. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every federal dollar invested in this program, $7 in energy savings are achieved and almost $11 in non-federal funds are leveraged.

Buildings consume approximately 40% of our energy in this country. The Buildings Technology Program conducts critical R&D that permits the private sector to incorporate new technologies into their construction. This allows businesses to maintain their competitive edge by reducing their costs of doing business and expanding against fierce global competition. These new products and technologies also help consumers every day.

These three programs that would be restored to FY'11 funding levels as a result of this amendment are critical to our future. The proposed amendment will increase Weatherization funding by $141.3 million, SEP funding by $25 million and the Buildings Technology Program by $60.5 million, for a total of $226.8 million. The amendment is fully offset.

Sincerely,

Adirondack Community Action Programs, Inc. (NY)
Alexandria Economic Opportunity Commission (VA)
Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions
Baltimore County Community Action Agency
Boston Community Development, Inc.
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
California/Nevada Community Action Partnership
Central Florida Community Action Agency (CFAA), Inc.
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin
Community Action Partnership
Community Action Partnership of Idaho
Community Action Partnership of Lake County (IL)
Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana
Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo Co., Inc. (CA)
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Services Group
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development
Direct Energy
Earth Advantage Institute
Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership
Efficiency First
ENE (Environment Northeast)
Energy Future Coalition
Energy Platforms, LLC
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environment America
Illuminating Engineering Society
Izaak Walton League of America
Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity (AL)
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Knauf Insulation
LACAP (LA)
League of Conservation Voters
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (OR)
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of Energy Service Companies
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
National Community Action Foundation
National Insulation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Newburgh Community Action Committee, Inc. (NY)
Nicholas Community Action (WV)

North American Insulation Manufacturing Association
North Carolina Community Action Association
Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency
NYS Community Action Association (NY)
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies
Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
People Incorporated of Virginia
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. (NY)
Safe Climate Campaign
Schenectady Community Action Program (NY)
S.E. Idaho Community Action Agency, Inc.
Sierra Club
Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies (NC)
Supportive Housing Network of New York
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc. (SMACNA)
Tompkins Community Action, Inc. (NY)
The Dow Chemical Company
The Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)
The Weidt Group
Union of Concerned Scientists
U.S. Green Buildings Council
West CAP (WI)
West Virginia Community Action Partnership, Inc.
Wider Opportunities for Women
WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc. (OH)