

# **Energy and Water Appropriations Amendment: Support the Tonko-Bass Amendment on Energy Efficiency**

**From: The Honorable Paul Tonko**  
**Date: 7/8/2011**

## **Encourage private sector jobs and energy independence**

*Support the Tonko/Bass Amendment to E&W Approps to restore WAP, SEP and Building Technologies Program*

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to ask your support for our amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations for FY 2012. We are concerned that we need to do more to protect our energy security, reduce our oil imports, promote research and development, save domestic jobs, help our global competitiveness and assist Americans in need. That is why we are introducing an amendment that restores funds to FY 2011 levels for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), the State Energy Program (SEP), and the Buildings Technology Program at the Department of Energy. Our amendment will keep the program functioning at the basic level currently funded and maintain jobs for the best-trained energy renovation contractors.

The thirty year old Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is the largest residential energy conservation program in the nation. It reduces the energy burden on low-income families, creates jobs, invests in local businesses, and advances technology. The energy savings average 35% of consumption for the typical low-income home and \$437 or more in annual utility bill savings year after year at current energy prices. SEP delivers extraordinary economic benefits to all sectors of the economy by working with the private sector on their high priorities. A study by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that for every federal dollar invested in this program over \$7 in energy savings are achieved, and almost \$11 in non-federal funds are leveraged.

Buildings consume 40% of our energy. That is why the Buildings Technology Program addresses R&D to enable this sector of the economy to incorporate new technology into their construction. Private businesses use that technology every day to sharpen their competitive edge in a global market, both through deployment of new technologies and development of new products and processes.

The combination of these three programs is critical to our energy security and our national security. The amendment will increase WAP funding by \$141.3 million, SEP funding by \$25 million and the Building Technologies Program by \$60.5 million for a total increase of \$226.8 million (FY 2011 levels).

Our fully offset amendment provides a common sense, baseline approach to three

programs that create private sector jobs, grow our energy independence and decrease our reliance on foreign oil.

If you have questions about this amendment, please contact Clinton Britt (Tonko) at 5-5076.

Very Truly Yours,

Paul D. Tonko

Charles F. Bass