

# \$2 Billion Home Energy Rebate Program Introduced in Congress

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Yesterday, Representative [David McKinley](#) (WV) and Representative [Peter Welch](#) (VT) introduced bi-partisan legislation that would jumpstart and accelerate opportunities for energy upgrades in existing residences. The Home Owner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) Act seeks to reward homeowners for reduced energy consumption as a result of a qualified home energy efficiency retrofit. Homeowners who show a 20 percent energy savings will receive a \$2,000 rebate. For every 5 percent in additional energy savings, they can receive another \$1,000 – up to a total of \$8,000 or 50 percent of the project's cost.

Does this bill sounds familiar? It should. The HOMES Act repurposes a number of policy items included in Home Star Energy Retrofit Act, which passed the House with bipartisan support last Congress but was not able to make it through the Senate.

In a letter to Reps. McKinley and Welch, 40 organizations, including U.S. Green Building Council, commended the introduction of the bill:

"The HOMES Act will provide a much-needed incentive to homeowners to make energy efficient improvements to their homes. These home owners will save money on their utility bills while living in more comfortable homes. The HOMES Act also offers long-term benefits vital to America's interests. It will create jobs, as demand for energy efficient technologies increases and construction workers are put back to work installing those new technologies."

It is good to see members from both sides working together to reduce energy consumption in homes across the country. There a multitude of reasons to advance smart polices like this but Congress Welch summed it up pretty well:

"Energy efficiency is not a partisan issue. Investments in efficiency create a win-win-win: They create jobs, save people money and reduce carbon emissions."

Let's hope others in Congress agree with him and advance this common sense effort.

March 21, 2012

Honorable David McKinley  
Honorable Peter Welch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen McKinley and Welch,

We are writing to express our support for the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings Act of 2012, or HOMES Act.

As large and small businesses, efficiency and environmental advocates, and non-profit organizations we appreciate your bi-partisan effort to increase the efficiency of America's homes while homeowners save money, benefitting the environment, and putting contractors back to work.

The HOMES Act will provide a much-needed incentive to homeowners to make energy efficient improvements to their homes. These home owners will save money on their utility bills while living in more comfortable homes. The HOMES Act also offers long-term benefits vital to America's interests. It will create jobs, as demand for energy efficient technologies increases and construction workers are put back to work installing those new technologies.

Thank you for introducing the HOMES Act. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Save Energy  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy  
ABM Industries  
AHRI  
BKİ  
Blow-in Blanket Contractors Association  
CNAİMA  
Conservation Services Group  
Danfoss  
Efficiency First  
Environmental and Energy Study Institute  
Energy Future Coalition  
Environment America  
EPS Industry Alliance  
Fresh Energy

GreenHomes America  
Icynene  
Ingersoll Rand/Trane  
Insulation Contractors Association of America  
Interfaith Power & Light  
JELD WEN, Inc  
Johnson Controls Inc.  
Knauf Insulation  
LIUNA  
Masco Corporation  
National Association of State Energy Officials  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NAESCO  
Performance Systems Development  
RESNET  
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance  
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association  
Sierra Club  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance  
Structural Insulated Panel Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Green Building Council  
United Technologies Corporation  
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