



The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
U.S. House of Representatives
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy
United States Senate
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The American Institute of Architects
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aia.org

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, Chairwoman Kaptur, and Ranking Member Simpson,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents over 94,000 architects and design professionals in the United States and beyond. Since 1857, we have been committed to safeguarding the public's health, safety, and welfare, and to improving our nation's quality of life through design. AIA's commitment to climate action is central to that mission. We respectfully submit the following recommendations for funding in the FY2023 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for your consideration.

Buildings currently account for 40 percent of carbon emissions. Approximately 11 percent comes from embodied carbon; the emissions generated during construction or in the process to make and transport materials. The rest is operational carbon; the emissions generated through the use of the building. We must confront each percentage of the emissions generated by the building sector. Energy efficiency improvements reduce overall energy use and the corresponding emissions. Reusing existing buildings and materials or using low carbon materials, when possible, can lessen the damaging impact of embodied carbon.

The Building Technologies Office (BTO) within the Department of Energy (DOE) includes important programs that support the decarbonization of the building sector across building types. Additionally, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program includes critical investments to make homes more resilient, while the State Energy Plans help states comprehensively prepare to meet future needs.

As the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies considers investments for FY2023, we urge you to include the following investments in the built environment:

Building Technologies Office (BTO)

To conduct the overall operations of the Building Technologies Office (BTO), Congress should appropriate at least \$392 million, consistent with the Administration's FY2023 Budget Request. Within the BTO, robust investment should continue for the following programs, at a minimum of FY2022 enacted levels:

- \$45 million for Residential Building Integration (RBI)
- \$55 million for Commercial Building Integration (CBI)
- \$30 million for Grid-interactive Efficient Buildings (GEB)
- \$12 million for Building Energy Codes Program

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and State Energy Plans

To address existing demand for the Weatherization Assistance Program, Congress should appropriate a minimum of \$400 million for FY 2023. AIA also supports a minimum of \$90 million to be appropriated for State Energy Plans to support state-led energy initiatives. State energy plans and the planning process help to guide and build consensus among stakeholders in moving toward a shared goal of meeting future energy needs cost-effectively and sustainably. A well-constructed state energy plan provides an assessment of current and future energy supply and demand, examines existing energy policies, and identifies emerging energy challenges and opportunities.

The AIA stands ready to serve as a resource to you as you evaluate these funding priorities. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find ways to improve the efficiency and performance of the built environment.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dodge
Senior Vice-President, Advocacy & Relationships

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader