

# Investing in State Energy Act (S.185)

*Bipartisan legislation led by Senators Shaheen, Collins, Coons and Reed*



The bipartisan Investing in State Energy Act, introduced by Senators Shaheen, Collins, Coons and Reed, will encourage state-driven energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives that reduce energy costs for low-income households, spur private sector energy innovation and improve emergency planning and response. Specifically, the legislation prevents undue delay in distributing grants through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the State Energy Program (SEP), providing stability to state agencies and local partners that rely on these critical funds.

For more than 40 years, the Department of Energy's (DOE) assistance programs, WAP and SEP, have provided technical and financial assistance to states, tribal governments and U.S. territories to encourage the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency practices and technologies. For instance, WAP enables low-income families, seniors, veterans and individuals with disabilities to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, freeing up limited resources for other essentials like food and medicine. In addition, SEP provides cost-shared resources directly to the states for allocations by the governor-designated State Energy Office to support energy projects, such as energy emergency planning and response, private sector innovation in clean energy and state-driven energy infrastructure modernization.

Together, these programs, which have long received bipartisan support, have yielded substantial energy savings for each dollar of federal investment and helped more than seven million low-income households reduce their energy bills. However, over the past two years, delays by DOE in issuing WAP and SEP awards, and the resulting uncertainty, threaten the future of these successful programs.

**The Investing in State Energy Act would direct DOE to distribute the full annual award amount of WAP and SEP funds to states, tribes and other direct grantees no later than 60 days after funds are appropriated by Congress.**

By establishing mandatory deadlines to issue these funds, this legislation encourages local high-impact projects that serve families in need and ensures that states continue to receive critical resources to meet their energy goals.

*This legislation is supported by the following organizations: National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income consumers, National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP), U.S. Green Building Council, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), National Community Action Foundation, Alliance to Save Energy and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).*