Updates to New Version of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act

Additions to Title I: Buildings
1. Energy Efficient Schools (Collins- Udall (Co)): DOE to coordinate and provide technical assistance to support efficiency retrofits and renewable energy installations in schools. No cost. (Title I, Subtitle C)

2. Better Buildings (Bennet- Ayotte): Establishes a Tenant Star program, a voluntary certification and recognition program to promote energy efficiency in leased commercial building spaces. No cost. (Title I, Subtitle D)

3. Benchmarking (Franken): Requires federally-leased buildings to benchmark energy usage data where practical. Establishes $2.5M/year for 5 years grant program for utilities and partners to implement benchmarking and data disclosure for multi-tenant buildings. $12.5M authorization. Offset by Zero Net Energy Buildings Program. (Title I, Subtitle E)

Additions to Title III: Federal Agency Efficiency
4. Data Centers (Udall (CO) - Risch): Similar to H.R. 540 (Eshoo – Rogers), requires OMB to collaborate with federal agencies to promote energy-efficiency in data centers and other information technologies. OMB would be required to track and report on each agency’s progress. No cost. (Title III, Section 303)

5. Low-Income Housing Retrofits (Whitehouse-Collins): Establishes a demonstration program at HUD using energy savings contracts to perform efficiency retrofits on low-income housing. No cost. (Title III, Section 304)

Newly Created Title IV: Regulatory Provisions
6. Energy Star Third-Party Testing (Landrieu – Wicker): Requires the EPA and DOE to issue rules that 3rd-party testing of electronic products shall not be required for Energy Star program partners that have complied with Energy Star regulations for at least 18 months. No cost. (Title IV, Subtitle A)

7. Federal Green Buildings (Landrieu – Wicker – Pryor): Ensures that the green building ratings systems used by GSA do not unfairly exclude certain building materials. No cost. (Title IV, Subtitle B)

8. Water Heaters (Hoeven - Pryor): Creates an exemption for thermal storage water heaters under the efficiency standards that go into effect in April 2015, so that large grid-enabled electric-resistance water heaters can continue to be manufactured for use only in demand response programs. No cost. (Title IV, Subtitle C)

9. Energy Efficiency in Federal and Residential Buildings (Hoeven-Manchin/Isakson-Bennet): Includes updated version of the Hoeven Manchin repeal of EISA, Section 433 (phase out the fossil fuel-generated energy use in new Federal buildings), along with the new inclusion of the SAVE Act (#1844) that requires all Federal agency issued, insured, purchased, or securitized home mortgages to account for EE in the mortgage appraisal/underwriting process. Other EE enhancements include: extends the 3%/year Federal building efficiency targets to 2017; expands EE standards for new buildings to major renovations; and codifies the administrative requirements of the “Guiding Principles for Sustainable New Construction and Major Renovations” for new buildings of at least 5000 sq. ft., unless not life-cycle cost effective. CBO estimates that it would reduce direct spending by $10 million. (Title IV, Subtitle D)

10. Third Party Testing: AHRI (Sessions – Pryor): Requires DOE to recognize voluntary, independent certification programs for heating, air conditioning equipment and water heating products that meet specific qualifications. No cost. (Title IV, Subtitle E)