



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Greg Stanton
U.S. House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S House of Representatives
271 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew
U.S House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Stanton, Fitzpatrick, Veasey, and Van Drew,

On behalf of The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, we want to thank you for introducing a bill to reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. We are pleased to endorse this bipartisan legislation and urge Congress to support and fully fund the EECBG program.

The EECBG program is a vital tool that can be used by cities, counties and states throughout the United States to promote energy efficiency, increase energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since being enacted in 2007, the program has only been funded twice but has proven to be an invaluable tool to our communities. The EECBG program was initially funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009, providing over 800 cities and counties, as well as every state and Indian tribe, the necessary resources needed to develop comprehensive energy plans and jump start or enhance energy efficiency programs in their communities. Most recently, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) invested \$550 million for EECBG for fiscal year 2022, directly supporting communities' efforts to promote clean energy initiatives for over 250 million Americans.

As you know, local elected officials have been on the frontlines in taking action to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their communities. Local governments have implemented green building codes, purchased zero- and low-emission fleet vehicles, invested in renewable and low-carbon power sources, switched to LED lights, and implemented other initiatives to reduce their local carbon footprint, as well as the nation's.

As the effects of climate change continue to threaten our communities, there is urgent work to be done. A sharp reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is necessary to reduce the severity of climate change impacts. In order to meet our national carbon emissions reduction goals

necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, local governments across the country must aggressively improve energy efficiency, increase energy conservation and deploy renewable energy systems. The reauthorization of the EECBG program will provide much needed resources to increase and expand state and local efforts to achieve these goals. Additionally, the EECBG program will become more effective and more efficient as the funding becomes durable and predictable. The stability of funding is almost as important as the funding level, since the predictability of funding enables cities to build capacity and plan for future investments and sustained programs.

Moreover, improving energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy makes good economic sense for residents, businesses and communities — which is more important than ever as America's cities are recovering from the fiscal consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

We stand ready to work with you on this important legislation. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. Please feel free to reach out to our staff: Judy Sheahan (USCM) at jsheahan@usmayors.org or Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at berndt@nlc.org for any assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO & Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO & Executive Director
National League of Cities