

June 29, 2021

Dear Speaker Pelosi; Leader Schumer; Leader McCarthy; Leader McConnell; Chairman Pallone; Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers; Chairman Manchin; and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of The New Jersey State League of Municipalities and in collaboration with the United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to take action on legislation to reauthorize and restore funding to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The nation's mayors strongly support and encourage the inclusion of the EECBG program in the infrastructure package or related legislation currently under consideration.

The EECBG program is a product of bipartisan legislation originated in Congress and enacted by President George W. Bush, and was funded initially under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in 2009. The program became a vital tool used by cities, counties, states and tribes throughout the United States to promote energy efficiency and conservation by modernizing community infrastructure. The Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory evaluated the program's efficacy and confirmed that it effectively increased energy conservation and lowered greenhouse gas emission while creating jobs and lowering residential electricity costs.

Local elected officials have been at the forefront in taking action to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the last 20 years and several Administrations. Local governments used the one-time funding under the EECBG program to accelerate their efforts by developing comprehensive energy plans, implementing green building codes, retro-fitting buildings for energy efficiency, purchasing zero- and low-emission fleet vehicles, investing in renewable and low-carbon power sources, switching to LED lights, and undertaking other initiatives to increase the use of clean energy and retain and create jobs. The program was not an open checkbook for municipal wish lists, it had clear "guide-rails" that established categories of allowable use of funds and reporting on project completion to the DOE. The overwhelming bipartisan support of mayors for this program underscores that with the right resources, there is still more opportunity for progress.

Given the tremendous challenges cities face in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, resources provided through the EECBG program have been shown to facilitate local development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation. At a time when swift action on climate change is necessary, the EECBG program is



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exactly what America needs: a mechanism that directs resources to a level of government that can expeditiously deploy those resources to the projects that yield the greatest climate benefits. We urge you to restore the program and allocate grants by formula directly to cities, counties, states and tribal governments for EECBG-eligible projects/activities.

We stand ready to work with you on this important legislation. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,