

January 26, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the undersigned businesses and organizations, we are writing to voice our strong opposition to the amendment offered by Senator Flake (FLAKE #103) to S.1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act. This amendment will have the effect of undermining our economic recovery.

As you know, buildings consume 40 percent of the nation's energy. Reducing energy and water waste in this area involves a number of Federal programs which target different segments of the diverse building sector. The Federal government is successfully using a variety of program approaches to overcome this complex challenge of reducing energy and water waste which ultimately saves U.S. families and businesses energy and money and thus boosts job creation and the nation's economy.

For example, there are Department of Energy (DOE) programs to promote private investment in cutting Federal government waste through performance contracting; Department of Defense (DOD) programs to promote efficiency on military bases and in the homes of servicemen and women; Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Health and Human Services (HHS) programs to cut utility costs for low-income families; and General Services Administration (GSA) programs to identify effective private sector green building efforts that Federal agencies are using to save millions of taxpayer dollars per year. Further, DOE-supported research and development (R&D) advances building science and technology to benefit all Americans, including the competitiveness of U.S. companies that provide building products and services. Many of these programs have been established using the organic authorities of Federal agencies to grow a collaborative network of partnerships among Federal, State, County and municipal governments, and with NGOs and private corporations. This amendment would eliminate these programs and do irreparable harm to these successful partnerships.

This amendment arbitrarily presumes that there are redundancies among Federal agencies' efforts to work together and with States, homeowners and private businesses to make our economy more efficient. In fact, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report referenced in the amendment recommends *enhanced coordination* between agencies to increase effectiveness of complementary programs. Nothing in the GAO report suggests elimination of programs and the report asserts in some areas "it may be appropriate for multiple agencies or entities to be involved in the same programmatic or policy area due to the nature or magnitude of the federal effort. "

We urge you to reject the amendment that would eliminate necessary federal programs that stimulate private sector job creation, save businesses and consumers energy, protect health and safety and provide housing for vulnerable populations.

The Air Barrier Association of America
The Alliance for Industrial Efficiency
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Planning Association
American Sustainable Business Council
American Society of Landscape Architects
Armstrong Filtration
The Ashkin Group
ASHRAE
Association for Energy Affordability
BlueGreen Alliance
BizNGO
The California Housing Partnership
Clean Water Action
Center for Environmental Health
The Community Builders, Inc.
Community Housing Partners
Dignity Health
Green Cleaning Network
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Earthjustice
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Enterprise Community Partners
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Healthy Building Network
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials
International Facility Management Association
IMT
Institute for Community Economics, Inc.
LeadingAge
League of Conservation Voters
Malachite
Mercy Housing
Mechanical Contractors Association of America
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Council of State Housing Agencies
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Energy Assistance Directors' Association
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Housing Conference
National Housing Law Project
National Housing Trust
National Leased Housing Association
Naturepedic
NETWORK
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing

NSF International
Oregon Environmental Council
Perkins+Will
Promise Energy
Seventh Generation
The Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA)
The Stella Group, Ltd.
Sierra Club
U.S. Green Building Council

CC: U.S. Senate