February 10, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski Chairman Committee on Energy and Natural Resources United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone Chairman Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin Ranking Member Committee on Energy and Natural Resources United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden Ranking Member Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019 (S. 2137 and H.R. 3962)

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Pallone, and Ranking Member Walden:

We, the undersigned companies and organizations, representing a broad coalition of states, energy efficiency organizations, businesses, builders, trade associations, and public interest groups strongly support the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019 (S. 2137 and H.R. 3962).¹ These bills – more colloquially known by the names of their respective sponsors ("Portman-Shaheen" and "Welch-McKinley") – would save energy and reduce costs for families and businesses, create jobs and promote economic growth, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants. We urge your support for these bills and encourage you to bring S. 2137 and H.R. 3962 up for consideration and a vote expeditiously.

These bipartisan bills include provisions that would improve U.S. energy productivity, expand energy efficiency savings and benefits across the economy, and seize opportunities to reduce the energy and water consumption of the federal government. Passage of this legislation would create jobs in local

¹ <u>S. 2137</u>, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2019, was introduced by Senators Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) on July 17, 2019. <u>H.R. 3962</u>, which has the same short title, was introduced by Representatives Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and David McKinley (R-W.Va.) on July 26, 2019.

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economies across the country and lower energy costs—year after year—for American households. More specifically, Portman-Shaheen and Welch-McKinley would create a national strategy to increase the use of energy efficiency through a model building energy code; promote the cost-effective implementation of building energy codes; help ensure homeowners can realize a return on investment for energy efficiency upgrades by updating mortgage rules to account for the value of energy savings; re-establish cost-saving energy and water consumption targets for federal agencies; encourage strategic planning to meet sustainability goals; promote public-private partnerships to implement energy and water conservation measures; streamline information to support the deployment of energy-efficient technologies in schools; improve commercial building efficiency; and set forth a number of other policies and initiatives.

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It also represents an important engine of economic growth in the energy sector. More than 2.3 million Americans hold energy efficiency jobs, representing over one-third of the total energy sector workforce.² Moreover, energy efficiency policies offer Americans protection from rising energy costs caused by instability overseas and move us toward greater energy security.

These bills have bipartisan support and provide an opportunity for Congress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while spurring economic growth and creating jobs. We respectfully urge you to pass these bipartisan bills, potentially as part of a larger energy-focused legislative package, at the first opportunity.

Sincerely,

Acuity Brands Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute Alliance to Save Energy Ameresco American Chemistry Council American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Association of Energy Engineers **Building Performance Association Consumer Technology Association** Danfoss DuPont E4TheFuture Federal Performance Contracting Coalition Honeywell Illuminating Engineering Society Ingersoll Rand Institute for Market Transformation

² National Association of State Energy Officials and Energy Futures Initiative. The 2019 U.S. Energy & Employment Report. Available at: <u>https://www.usenergyjobs.org/</u>

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Intel Johnson Controls, Inc. Knauf Insulation Legrand National Association of Energy Service Companies National Association of Manufacturers National Association of State Energy Officials National Roofing Contractors Association Natural Resources Defense Council North American Insulation Manufacturers Association Owens Corning Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association Schneider Electric Signify U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Cc: The Honorable Peter Welch, Member, U.S. House of Representatives The Honorable David McKinley, Member, U.S. House of Representatives The Honorable Rob Portman, Member, U.S. Senate The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Member, U.S. Senate