
THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

The New England Council

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

On behalf of the New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business organization, I am writing in support of S. 761, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (ESICA), and to ask you to support it as well. Introduced last month by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH), this bill builds upon energy efficiency efforts these two lawmakers championed in the 112th Congress. Indeed, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) has characterized this legislation as "unfinished business" from the previous Congress, and just last week reported S. 761 to the full Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support.

As passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the bill would: create a national strategy to increase the use of energy efficiency technologies through a national model building energy code; create a financing program for commercial building energy efficiency projects; promote the development of energy efficient supply-chains for companies; require the federal government to adopt and implement energy saving policies and programs; and a variety of other initiatives. Further, the bill is designed to be deficit-neutral. According to Senator Shaheen, an analysis of similar legislation considered last year would have netted energy savings for consumers of "\$4 billion by 2020 and helped businesses add 80,000 jobs to the economy." Representatives Peter Welch (D-VT) and David McKinley (R-WV) have introduced a companion measure (H.R. 1616) to the Shaheen-Portman bill in the House of Representatives.

As Senator Shaheen has indicated, "the cheapest energy is the energy we don't use." Enhancing opportunities to put energy efficiency guidelines in place helps lower the cost of energy for businesses and consumers across the nation. In addition, the less energy that is used

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due to greater efficiency lowers our overall carbon footprint, which helps address the mounting concern over climate change.

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act currently enjoys the support of well over 200 organizations as diverse as the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Chemistry Council, the League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Consumers Union. The New England Council believes that once enacted, this legislation will go a long way towards helping to maximize the energy utilization in our region, and stabilize costs which will help encourage job creation across New England. On behalf of the Council, I hope that you will support this important piece of legislation. We look forward to the Senate's timely consideration of this measure and its speedy adoption.

Very truly yours,



David J. O'Donnell
Vice President of Policy & Counsel
The New England Council