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The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013

U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH) recently filed legislation “to increase the use of energy efficiency technologies in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy, while also fostering job creation.” Entitled the “Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013”, the legislation:

- Directs the Department of Energy to support development of national model building energy codes - using the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code for residential buildings and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 90.1 – 2010 for commercial buildings as the baselines - and to assist states in adopting, implementing and complying with these codes;
- Establishes Building Training and Assessment Centers to identify opportunities and technologies for enhancing building energy and environmental performance and promotes research and development in building clean energy technologies;
- Institutes the “Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Financing Initiative” to provide state grants to establish or expand programs to promote the financing of energy efficiency retrofit projects for private sector and commercial buildings;
- Creates a process for conducting industry-specific studies on the intensity of energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and operating costs;
- Launches a sustainable manufacturing initiative to provide onsite technical assessments to manufacturers and an advisory steering committee to provide recommendations on planning and implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing Office of the Department of Energy;
- Initiates a Supply Star program to identify and recognize products using supply chains that conserves energy and other resources, and creates Energy Saving Motor Control Rebate and Energy Efficient Transformer Rebate Programs; and

- Requires development and publication of a goal for the total amount of planned energy and cost savings and increased productivity by the Federal Government through the consolidation of Federal data centers during the 5-year period following the date of enactment.

Similar legislation sponsored by both Senators was reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in July of 2011 (S.1000), with several provisions relating to industrial and federal agency efficiency included in the American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act signed into law in December of 2012.

According to a press release from Senator Shaheen's office, S.1000 was endorsed by some 200 businesses, environmental groups, and trade associations, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufactures, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades. Those organizations support the re-filed legislation, as well.

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The legislation is available at: <http://www.shaheen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Shahen-Portman%20Introduced%20Version.pdf>.

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