

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

As representatives of a broad coalition of interests including: home builders, Realtors[®], manufacturers, bankers, consumers—and many more, we are writing in support of the *Sensible Accounting to Value Energy (SAVE) Act – S. 1106*.

The SAVE Act, introduced by Senators Isakson and Bennet, has enjoyed strong bipartisan support since its inception. The bill will help homeowners realize the true value of energy-efficient homes by recognizing that reduced energy costs make these homes more affordable.

Recent evidence suggests that owners of energy-efficient homes are 32 percent less likely to default on mortgages. Current lending practices don't account for a significant cost of homeownership—utility bills. This bill would provide a flexible and voluntary pathway for lenders to better assess risk and account for energy savings realized by homeowners. The SAVE Act would also allow appraisers to more easily include the value of energy-efficient features in the overall value of buildings. We believe this voluntary program will help inform homebuyers about their home purchase and encourage owners to invest in energy efficiency.

Furthermore, by encouraging more home improvement projects and unlocking demand for new energy-efficient homes, the SAVE Act would create manufacturing and construction jobs. These jobs are essential for strengthening the economic recovery.

Based on the bipartisan nature of the SAVE Act—including the support of all the listed organizations—we urge you to consider the bill for inclusion as a non-controversial amendment to the *Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013 (S. 761/1392)*.

Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Environmental Sustainability
Alliance to Save Energy
American Chemistry Council
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Institute of Architects
Appraisal Institute
BASF
Blow In Blanket Contractors Association
Building Energy Efficient Codes Network
Center for Neighborhood Technology
Council of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign
The Dow Chemical Company
Efficiency First
Environmental Defense Fund
Green Builder Coalition
Insulation Contractors Association of America
International Association of Certified Home Inspectors
International Code Council
Johns Manville
Leading Builders of America
Masco Corporation
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Realtors
National Association of State Energy Officials
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Housing Conference
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships

Passive House Institute US
Real Estate Roundtable
Residential Energy Services Network
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Structural Insulated Panel Association
U.S. Green Building Council

cc: The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate

The Honorable Tim Johnson
United States Senate

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate