



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

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FY11 CONTINUING RESOLUTION TALKING POINTS

DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Please use to guide phone conversations or in-person meetings with Congressional Members and/or staff.

IMMEDIATE ACTION: *Please support the inclusion of funding for the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program within the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (H.R. 1) under development by Congress to ensure vital local and regional programs continue to boost the economy and create jobs. Currently H.R. 1 zeros out WAP funding.*

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

- Reforms to and consolidation of federal funding and programs should be looked to in order to save money and increase government efficiency, while decreasing the national debt.
- Domestic, discretionary programs, which are only 12 percent of the federal annual budget, are critical to the ability of local governments and regions to carry out their responsibilities as service providers for both the federal and state governments.
- Due to economic challenges, local governments have experienced reduced revenue streams due to decreased taxes (primarily property and sales) and major reductions in state financial assistance, while at the same time facing an increased demand for services. As a result, local governments of all sizes and in all parts of the nation have been forced to institute significant layoffs, furloughs and service reductions, which could continue for several years to come.
- Federal assistance to state and local governments and regions will help mitigate further layoffs. Current unemployment rates are already at 9.4 percent nationally.
- Federal investment in state, local and regional infrastructure produces jobs and promotes local economic development.
- Deficit reduction should not be accomplished by shifting costs to states and local governments, imposing unfunded mandates, or pre-empting local government programs or taxing authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Please consider the following when making **DOE Weatherization Assistance Program** funding determinations in H.R. 1:

- WAP enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient, and to date, weatherization services have been provided to more than 6.4 million low-income households seeing an annual energy bills reduced by an average of about \$437.
- WAP efforts create jobs annually, noting that 52 jobs are directly created for each million dollars invested into the weatherization program.
- Local communities benefit from the WAP with significant economic impacts through increased household spending, generation of jobs and purchasing of materials, as well as increased revenues for related businesses and increased tax revenues.
- WAP provides an economic boost in low-income communities and helps revitalize and improve neighborhoods and communities with reductions in energy consumption, improvements in health, safety and comfort of occupants, lowered energy costs, and increased property values.
- Grant programs like these assist States, local governments and regions to balance a commitment to conserving energy, protecting the environment, increasing job opportunity, and strengthening the economy.



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LOCAL/REGIONAL CONSTITUENT EXAMPLE: In our region alone, maintaining adequate funding for **Weatherization Assistance Program** is needed for: [INSERT PROJECT DETAILS]

Project Name

Project Type and Description

Cost Estimate

Number of Jobs Created

Cost Efficiencies

Project Effectiveness/Improvements for community or region

Start/Finish Time (i.e. immediately, 3 months, 6 months)

- **PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:** Investment in the **Weatherization Assistance Program** must continually be promoted at all levels of government to ensure environmental protection, economic growth and the ability to address future challenges and opportunities.
- Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and your commitment to sustained and strategic public investments. We offer our support and assistance to you and your colleagues on these important and timely efforts to stimulate jobs, reinvigorate local and national economies and possibly forestall deep problems within state and local governments.