



The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2187 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart S.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2186 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Kennedy  
United States Senate  
416 Russell S.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20510

March 8, 2023

The American Institute of Architects  
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Dear Chairwoman Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, Chairman Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents over 96,000 architects and design professionals in the United States and beyond. Since 1857, we have been committed to safeguarding the public's health, safety, and welfare and to improving our nation's quality of life through design. AIA is committed to advancing climate action and equity in the built environment. We respectfully submit the following recommendations for funding in the FY2024 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for your consideration.

The Building Technologies Office (BTO) within the Department of Energy (DOE) includes important programs that support the decarbonization of the building sector across building types. Buildings currently account for 39 percent of carbon emissions. Approximately 11 percent comes from embodied carbon; the emissions generated during construction or in the process to make and transport materials. The rest is operational carbon; the emissions generated through the use of the building.

We must confront all emissions generated by the building sector. As the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies considers investments for FY2024, we urge you to include the following investments in the built environment:

#### **Building Technologies Office (BTO)**

To conduct the overall operations of the Building Technologies Office (BTO), Congress should appropriate at least \$392 million, consistent with the Administration's FY2023 Budget Request. Within the BTO, robust investment should continue for the following programs, at a minimum of FY2023 enacted levels:

- \$60 million for Residential Building Integration (RBI)

- \$70 million for Commercial Building Integration (CBI)
- \$30 million for Building Energy Codes Program

### **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

Additionally, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program provides critical investments to make homes more resilient. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report was clear that even if carbon emissions were eliminated overnight, current warming trends will continue until mid-century, and with it, more frequent and severe weather events. The federal government must invest in greater resilience for the built environment to face this challenge.

To address existing demand for the Weatherization Assistance Program, Congress should appropriate a minimum of \$400 million for FY 2024.

AIA stands ready to serve as a resource to you as you evaluate these funding priorities. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find ways to improve the efficiency and performance of the built environment.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dodge  
Senior Vice-President, Advocacy & Relationships

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader