U.S. Consumer Products, Manufacturing, Real Estate, and Retail Sectors Offer Partnership With US-DOE on ENERGY STAR's Transition

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Audrey Robertson
Assistant Secretary
Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independent Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Assistant Secretary Robertson:

On behalf of the consumer products, manufacturing, real estate, and retail sectors, the undersigned organizations **support the new role of the Department of Energy (DOE) as lead federal agency for the ENERGY STAR program,** as indicated in the recent Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We look forward to working closely with you and your staff to ensure an effective transition that maintains and evolves the voluntary ENERGY STAR public-private partnership. Our collaboration can support a modernized program that continues to ensure consumers and businesses have access to efficient products and buildings with features and performance they have come to expect from the ENERGY STAR brand.

Our industries are engines of the U.S. economy. Manufacturers of consumer and other goods contributed $2.95 trillion at the annual rate to the U.S. economy in Q3 2025 alone. The consumer technology industry is projected to reach $565 billion in revenue in 2026, growing 3.7% from 2025. The total value of America's investable commercial real estate is $26.8 trillion, more than half the market capitalization of the U.S. stock market. Housing's combined contribution to GDP generally averages 15%-18%, with the value of new residential construction alone averaging roughly 3-5% of GDP. Retail contributes $5.3 trillion to annual GDP and is the nation's largest private-sector employer. The business of chemistry supports 25% of GDP and generates $673 billion annually.

We create tens of millions of American jobs. Retail supports one in four U.S. jobs — 55 million working Americans. U.S. consumer technology supports more than 17 million U.S. jobs. Real estate supports over 14 million direct U.S. jobs. There were nearly 12.6 million manufacturing workers in January 2026.

In addition to the massive positive impacts our industries bring collectively to the economy, our organizations align regarding longstanding support for ENERGY STAR. As our multi-sector coalition explained in a letter to Congress last June, clear legislative authorization backs ENERGY STAR as a voluntary, non-regulatory program that the federal government must implement. We stand ready to partner with DOE to help leverage the staff, data, budget, national lab research, and outside contractor support needed for a smooth, transparent, and comprehensive transition to DOE.

Most importantly at this juncture, we reiterate our strong support for the ENERGY STAR program remaining within the federal government. ENERGY STAR fits well within the goals of DOE's recent reorganization and Secretary Wright's objectives to "lower costs for American families and businesses, and ensure the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars." This is precisely why our multi-sector coalition advocates staunchly for the program. "Since 1992, ENERGY STAR and its partners have helped American families and businesses save more than $500 billion in energy costs." Considering the $33 million that Congress recently appropriated for ENERGY STAR in the very text of the FY'26 spending bill (H.R. 6938) signed into law on January 23, taxpayers receive a tremendous return on their investment as this program drives the critical bipartisan objective of energy affordability. In fact, in 2020 alone, ENERGY STAR saved the equivalent of approximately 47 million homes' energy use for a year.

Reducing energy costs and protecting energy choices for American families and businesses should remain a central priority. Lowering energy costs through efficiency also supports broader competitiveness goals including strengthening national defense, leading the world in AI, and ensuring U.S. energy dominance. ENERGY STAR is the federal government's primary voluntary program for delivering real cost savings to American families and businesses. It provides practical, market-based tools for consumer products, homes, and income-producing real estate to lower utility bills and improve affordability.

Our industry organizations are eager to offer our historical perspectives that can help channel the institutional knowledge and data to realize our mutual objectives for a seamless program transition to DOE, and a robust future for ENERGY STAR.

Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute

American Bakers Association

American Cement Association

American Chemistry Council

American Hotel & Lodging Association

American Lighting Association

Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International

California Business Properties Association

Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association

Consumer Technology Association

Home Innovation Research Labs

ICSC

Illuminating Engineering Society

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

Leading Builders of America

NAIOP, Commercial Real Estate Development Association

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Nareit

National Apartment Association

National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED)

National Association of Home Builders

National Association of Manufacturers

National Multifamily Housing Council

National Association of REALTORS®

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

Pool & Hot Tub Alliance

PIMA -- Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY)

Retail Industry Leaders Association

Spray Foam Coalition

Structural Insulated Panel Association

TIC Council

The Real Estate Roundtable

Cc: The Honorable Aaron Szabo, Assistant Administrator, US-EPA
Members of the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee
Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works