

March 17, 2021

The Honorable John Sarbanes
Member, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change
Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch
Member, Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sarbanes and Congressman Welch:

The undersigned businesses and organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of employees, are writing in support of your bill, **the Federal Building Clean Jobs Act of 2021**. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic's impacts to our national economy, public health, and way of life, this bill will stimulate the economy through construction and clean energy jobs, while saving taxpayer money and creating a healthier, more resilient, and lower carbon Federal buildings portfolio.

The construction industry continues to show deteriorating demand, and its unemployment rate in November was 7.3 percent, compared to 4.4 percent in November 2019, according to a survey by the Associated General Contractors of America. And nearly half a million clean energy workers remain unemployed (446,144)—representing a 13% decline from early 2020 for this historically fast-growing workforce, according to E4TheFuture based on an analysis by a new analysis by BW Research Partnership. These are local jobs and the losses are being felt throughout the nation.

The bill's investment in Federal buildings provides an opportunity to create quality jobs and contribute to local economies around the country. For example, the types of Federal facilities serving the public include offices and residences on military installations, courthouses, USDA offices, urban office towers, ports of entry, DOE centers, and many others, and are found in thousands of communities. Investing in the efficiency, health, resilience of these Federal facilities, which play a critical role as public facilities and as employers in communities around the nation, provides both direct and spillover benefits.

The **Federal Building Clean Jobs Act of 2020** would authorize funding to Federal agencies, to build and upgrade facilities, exhibiting leadership in high performing, resilient, healthy, and low-carbon buildings and campuses for the Federal workforce and public customers. Retrofit projects focused on energy efficiency would prioritize leveraging of private sector financing through performance contracting and other private-public partnership models. In these leveraged projects, private finance will support efficiency paid for through guaranteed energy savings while Federal funds will allow projects to target zero energy and zero carbon outcomes, install zero-emission vehicle infrastructure; and increase resiliency with distributed energy resources and building-grid integration. The Act would also amend current law to authorize the use of performance contracting for ZEV charging and fueling facilities. This will enable leveraging so that Federal funds go farther and support more comprehensive projects incorporating both efficiency and vehicle charging.

Along with funding, the Act will establish performance goals for energy intensity, water intensity, and greenhouse gas emission reductions, and zero emission vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure. For

new construction, net zero energy goals would be phased in, achieving 100% net zero energy by 2030. These goals along with direction will drive activity in Federal building projects with focused outcomes, and move the portfolio towards low-carbon operations.

The **Federal Building Clean Jobs Act of 2020** also would direct GSA to develop and apply resilience and health metrics, including training of Federal personnel, and enable upgrades that center on occupant health outcomes in Federal buildings. This aligns with research by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in collaboration with GSA projecting that improving occupant productivity from an enhanced indoor environment could result in gains of nearly \$1 billion for federal facilities.¹ Additionally, the Act will establish flood risk protections considering current climate science, and authorize funding for resilience including to implement green infrastructure to reduce flooding and improve water quality.

Investing in Federal buildings, installations, and campuses is a priority stimulus policy for job creation, and will create long term dividends for the Federal agencies in saving money on utilities, enabling greater continuation of operations during emergencies, and supporting health and productivity of the Federal workforce.

Thank you for your leadership in supporting Federal facilities with this important bill.

Sincerely,

ABM Industries
AECOM
Alliance to Save Energy (ASE)
Ameresco
American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
American Institute of Architects (AIA)
American Sustainable Business Council (ASBC)
Constellation Energy Solutions
Copper Development Association
Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)
Federal Performance Contracting Coalition (FPCC)
Hannon Armstrong
Honeywell International
Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)
International Well Building Institute (IWBI)
Johnson Controls
National Association of Energy Services Companies (NAESCO)
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)
NORESO
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Schneider Electric
Sierra Club
SitelogIQ
Southland Energy
Trane Technologies
U.S. Green Building Council

¹ PNNL, Efficient Buildings, Healthy Buildings (March 2020),
https://www.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/media/file/EED_0803_FLIER_HealthyBuildings_v3.pdf