June 24, 2021

The Honorable John Hickenlooper

U.S. Senate

Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Hickenlooper:

As Colorado businesses and energy efficiency stakeholders we urge you to co-sponsor the S. 1768, HOPE for HOMES Act of 2021, and use your important position on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to help include this policy in energy and/or infrastructure legislation. HOPE for HOMES provides immediate and long-term initiatives to support the residential energy efficiency industry, train workers, make homes more affordable by getting contractors back to work helping homeowners, multifamily property owners, and renters save energy and money by investing in clean, efficient technology.

As soon as the nation began shutting down in response to the pandemic, America’s energy efficiency workforce – the biggest energy workforce in the nation – began to dissolve. A report from E2 found that, over the course of 2020, the energy efficiency sector shed a net of nearly 272,000 jobs, an 11% decline that wiped out the last three years of job gains. The residential energy efficiency sector has been particularly hard hit by the crisis, but the infrastructure discussion is a prime opportunity to help these small businesses re-hire, train and upgrade millions of homes across America – saving energy, protecting the environment, and making homes more comfortable, healthy, and affordable.

The Contractor “Home On-line Performance-based Energy-efficiency” (HOPE) Training would provide immediate support to contractor businesses, with $500 million to help companies pay their contractors to undertake online training to advance their understanding of home performance. HOPE provides a stipend for contractors who complete the HOPE Training and are prepared to advance their careers and help property owners save energy and money through home retrofits. These stipends would act as a lifeline as well as a pathway to participate in the Home Owner Managing Savings (HOMES) program. Because the training is available online, contractors from all states would have access to these courses and would be able to invest in workforce development.

HOPE is paired with a 6-year, $8.4 billion Home Owner Managing Savings (HOMES) rebate program. The HOMES rebate program would provide rebates to homeowners and multifamily property owners who undertake energy efficiency home retrofits, thereby supporting contractors who are providing energy efficiency products and installations for their customers. HOMES rebates would also create a vital stimulus – encouraging property owners to undertake energy retrofits and driving demand for these highly trained workers. This will result in the creation of local jobs than cannot be outsourced, and a massive upgrade to this nation’s residential housing stock.

The HOMES rebate program would create incentives for homeowners and multifamily property owners to invest in energy efficiency improvements through a multi-part rebate program to support states with a diversity of building stock, energy program expertise, and contractor workforce advance the efficiency, health, and safety of their properties. The HOMES program will also spur the creation of important jobs in contracting, manufacturing, and retail sales of energy efficient technologies and products.

We urge you to cosponsor and advance S.1768, the HOPE for HOMES Act of 2021, and encourage its inclusion in the federal infrastructure bill to stimulate the economy and pave the way for a massive upgrade of our nation’s residential building stock and improve the efficiency, resiliency, health, and safety of homes of American families across the country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact Kara Saul Rinaldi at 202.276.1773 or kara@anndyl.com with any questions or for more information.

Colorado’s local companies and business in support of the HOPE for HOMES Act of 2021 bill:

Provide your company name, state and city for inclusion.