

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 3, 2025

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I am gravely concerned by the Environmental Protection Agency's reported plans to shutter the Energy Star program after more than 30 years of delivering consumer savings and advancing energy conservation.<sup>1</sup> This misguided decision would be counterproductive to our national housing, economic, and electricity goals. At a time when American families are grappling with rising energy and housing costs and our nation faces mounting energy and climate challenges, eliminating a highly successful program that lowers utility bills and reduces emissions is indefensible.

The Energy Star program was launched in 1992 under President George H.W. Bush to emphasize the alignment between economic growth, energy efficiency, and air quality protection. The program, which is voluntary for manufacturers to participate in, provides independent assurance that certified appliances are energy efficient and a good investment for homes and businesses. The program's impact has been profound: over the lifetime of the program, Energy Star has led to millions of high-paying jobs, billions of dollars in private sector investments, and billions of metric tons in avoided emissions.<sup>2</sup> Today, nearly 40% of Fortune 500 companies participate in the program, reflecting its broad adoption across major businesses.<sup>3</sup> More than 2.7 million Energy Star certified homes and apartments have been built across the country.<sup>4</sup> This program remains a strong example of successful public-private collaboration across many sectors of the economy.

With energy prices continuing to be a top concern for American families, programs like Energy Star are more critical than ever. By choosing Energy Star products, a typical household can save about \$450 annually on their energy bills, all while enjoying the quality and performance they expect.<sup>5</sup> Over the lifetime of the program, every dollar EPA has spent on

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<sup>1</sup> Picchi, Aimee, and Tracy Wholf, "Trump administration plans to eliminate the Energy Star program after 3 decades." *CBS News*, May 7, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-energy-star-program-epa-eliminate/>

<sup>2</sup> Energy Star, "Our History", <https://www.energystar.gov/about/how-energy-star-works/history>.

<sup>3</sup> Energy Star, "Annual Overview Report", May 2024, [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/Annual%20Overview%20Report\\_2023.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/Annual%20Overview%20Report_2023.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

Energy Star resulted in nearly \$350 in energy cost savings for American business and households.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, energy-efficient products are often built to higher standards and last longer, reducing the need for frequent replacements. This not only saves consumers money over time but also avoids the expense of replacing lower-quality, short-lived appliances—delivering significant savings for the American public.

The benefits of Energy Star extend beyond appliances to the very homes and buildings where Americans live and work. Purchasing a home or apartment is often the largest investment a family will make, and Energy Star certification provides critical peace of mind that the property has been constructed with superior energy efficiency, durability, and performance in mind. Today, more than 2,500 builders, developers, and manufactured housing plants are active in the Energy Star program — including most of the nation’s 25 largest home builders. In 2023, about 12 percent of all new U.S. homes built in America earned the Energy Star label.<sup>7</sup>

Arizona stands as a testament to Energy Star’s success through many strong partnerships with energy utilities, builders, and other organizations. The state boasts 270 participating businesses and organizations, including 14 manufacturers of Energy Star certified products and 140 companies constructing certified homes, apartments, commercial buildings, and schools. Energy Star utility partners serve 3.2 million customers, and support thousands of facilities — including schools, hotels, hospitals, office buildings, and industrial plants.<sup>8</sup> In Arizona alone, 45 percent of the housing and rental market is Energy Star certified. To date, more than 345,000 Energy Star certified homes and apartments have been built across Arizona, offering consumers high-quality housing options that deliver real energy savings and performance benefits.<sup>9</sup> These partnerships not only reduce energy use and utility costs for Arizona families and businesses but also provide confidence that consumers are buying high quality products and investing in homes built to last.

Eliminating the Energy Star program would be a shortsighted decision that undermines decades of critical consumer savings and energy conservation. I strongly urge you to reconsider any efforts to eliminate the Energy Star program. Its continued operation is essential to advancing our shared goals of economic growth, energy efficiency, and making life more affordable for all Americans. I respectfully request that the EPA reaffirm its commitment to this vital initiative and work to strengthen—not dismantle—one of our nation’s most effective programs.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
United States Senator

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<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Energy Star, “About Us”, [https://www.energystar.gov/partner-resources/residential\\_new/about](https://www.energystar.gov/partner-resources/residential_new/about).

<sup>8</sup> Energy Star, “Arizona ENERGY STAR Partners”, April 2022,

[https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/2021\\_State\\_Factsheet\\_AZ\\_508.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/2021_State_Factsheet_AZ_508.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Energy Star, 2023 Certified Homes & Apartments Market Share,

[https://www.energystar.gov/newhomes/energy\\_star\\_certified\\_new\\_homes\\_market\\_share](https://www.energystar.gov/newhomes/energy_star_certified_new_homes_market_share).