

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

July 2, 2026

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIR
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

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

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

I write to you requesting an update on the status of the Energy Star program. Consumers across the country rely on the Energy Star label to make purchasing decisions that reduce their energy use and lower their utility bills. According to the most recent Energy Star Annual Report, the program has saved consumers more than \$500 billion in energy costs since 1992. By choosing Energy Star products, the average American household can save approximately \$450 annually on their energy bills.

Congress appropriated \$33 million for the Energy Star program at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of the Fiscal Year 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Commerce Justice Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior Appropriations Act of 2026, which was signed into law in January. On March 3, 2026, the EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that designates DOE as the lead federal agency for the program. According to the MOA, a transition plan was to be finalized within 90 days. That deadline has passed, but the EPA and DOE have not finalized the plan. Please answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the status of the transition plan for Energy Star, and when does the EPA anticipate that the plan will be finalized?
- 2) EPA staff have indicated that two-thirds of the Fiscal Year 2026 funds for the Energy Star program remain unobligated. How does the EPA plan to obligate those remaining funds?
- 3) Does the EPA plan to retain its staff who are responsible for operating the Energy Star program? Will they be transferred to the DOE as part of this transition?
- 4) What is the status of the program's day-to-day operations? What steps are being taken to ensure that the program continues to operate during this transition?

I look forward to an update on the status of the Energy Star program and appreciate your attention to this matter. Please contact me if you wish to discuss or have your staff provide responses to my Legislative Assistant Alex Shultz at Alex_Shultz@collins.senate.gov or 202-224-1355.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator