

## 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

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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