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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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November 10, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

As the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources we recognize the critical role that energy efficiency plays in our national energy policy. It is the cheapest and most-available energy resource and it saves families and businesses money, makes our economy more competitive, and reduces environmental impacts.

Among the most cost-effective and available energy efficiency technologies is thermal insulation. We recognize the general benefits that thermal insulation can have in the industrial and commercial sectors when it is installed on ductwork, steam piping, hot and cold water piping, mechanical systems and other equipment and facilities. However, to encourage greater use of this technology, it would be helpful to have experts within the Department of Energy analyze and report on the specific benefits thermal insulation presents. Accordingly, we request that you conduct a study on the impact that thermal insulation can have on energy and water use within federal buildings and facilities.

As you know, this year, H.R. 568, the bipartisan Thermal Insulation Efficiency Improvement Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill would direct the Department of Energy to conduct a study on the impact of thermal insulation on both energy and water use systems for potable hot and chilled water in federal buildings and on the return on investment of installing the insulation. The study would be required to include an analysis based on the cost of municipal or regional water for delivered water and the avoided cost of new water; and a summary of energy and water savings, including short-term and long-term projections of such savings. We understand that the Department contributed to the preparation of this bill and we note that the House Energy and Commerce Committee included identical language in their broad energy bill, H.R. 8, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act.

This language was not included in S. 2012, the bipartisan Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 that we reported out of the Energy Committee earlier this year, because the Department

already has the authority to undertake this effort. We therefore request that you direct the appropriate office to conduct the study, which falls within the Department of Energy's jurisdiction and under its organic authorization, and that you submit the results to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce by the end of 2016.

The federal government and the Department of Energy have frequently taken the lead in analyzing and demonstrating the benefits of energy efficiency. We look forward to your continued leadership in studying and reporting on the costs and benefits of thermal insulation.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator