

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Secretary Wright:

We write to express strong opposition to the Department of Energy's (DOE) new High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEHR) program guidance. Congress authorized and provided \$4.28 billion to the HEEHR program to ensure that Americans could purchase more efficient appliances and install home upgrades. This voluntary program saves households around \$1,000 annually on their energy bills. Because unlike one-time payments, efficiency upgrades provide relief for decades, locking in long term, predictable savings for American families.

The Department's guidance released earlier this month prohibits families from using the program to update their gas appliances with electric appliances. This not only eliminates consumer choice, but goes against Congressional intent and the letter of the law. The statute explicitly states that rebates can be used "to replace a nonelectric appliance." DOE does not have the authority to rewrite the statute through guidance. At a time when energy prices are skyrocketing, this Administration should be focused on making energy affordable -- not hamstringing one of the few programs that puts money directly in families' pockets.

The Department's recently released guidance will halt HEEHR programs already operating in 12 states as state energy offices race to comply, and delay approval for dozens of states that have been ready to launch since the beginning of this Administration. Rather than clearing this backlog and getting funding out the door, DOE has issued illegal restrictions that will reduce consumer choice and delay much needed resources.

We urge you to immediately reverse course and implement the HEEHR program as Congress intended.

Sincerely,



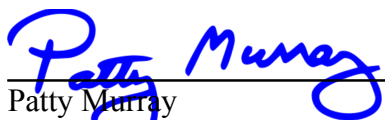
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Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Energy and Natural  
Resources



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator




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Patty Murray  
United States Senator



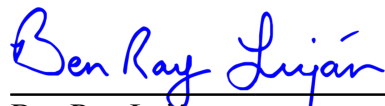
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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



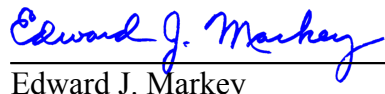
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Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



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John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator