

April 29, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

As leading designers and supporters of energy efficient buildings across America and the world, we urge you to oppose the repeal of Section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 contained in the Portman-Shaheen energy efficiency legislation.

Section 433 is a cornerstone of the federal government's sustainability strategy. It requires new and majorly renovated federal buildings to hit fossil fuel reduction targets until zero consumption in 2030. If a building cannot hit these targets, then an agency can request a waiver of these targets.

Although some have claimed that Section 433's energy consumption requirements are unrealistic, the facts tell a different story. Today, design and construction companies across the country are designing buildings that meet, and in some cases exceed, the current targets. In fact, Section 433 goals have enabled design firms to develop new design strategies that are now being used to help private-sector building owners reduce their energy loads.

Recognizing that these goals, while achievable, are complex, a diverse group of stakeholders have worked closely with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure the development of workable regulations to implement Section 433. We were pleased to see that DOE upheld its commitment to completing this rule when it released a supplemental rule in late 2014 that addressed each of the stakeholders' concerns, while inviting additional comments.

Section 433 has helped the government reduce the energy consumption of federal facilities across the country. This is a win not only for the environment, but for taxpayers as well, as federal agencies see their energy costs go down. At a time when we are looking to reduce government spending and promote clean energy, it makes no sense to retreat on policies that are achieving positive results. Therefore, we urge you to oppose the repeal of Section 433.

Sincerely,

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