



May 23, 2025

U.S. House of Representatives
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Chair
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member

FY 2026 Written Testimony for the Hearing Record

Dear Chair Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA), representing over 100,000 architects and design professionals nationwide, respectfully submits the following recommendations for FY 2026 appropriations under the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies. For nearly 170 years, AIA has been committed to protecting and improving public health, safety, and welfare through the power of design and the built environment.

As stewards of the built environment, AIA members play a critical role in advancing energy efficiency, sustainability, and resilience through innovation in building design. Strong federal investment in research, codes, and weatherization not only helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also drives job creation, reduces energy costs, and enhances the health and safety of our communities. We urge the subcommittee to support the following priorities:

\$392 million for the Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office (BTO)

The Building Technologies Office leads efforts to improve energy efficiency in buildings, which are responsible for approximately 40% of U.S. energy consumption. BTO supports transformative research and development, deployment of emerging technologies, and partnerships that help architects, engineers, and builders reduce energy demand across the commercial and residential sectors. Increased funding will support innovation in smart building systems, decarbonization technologies, and grid integration—essential steps toward achieving national climate goals and enhancing building performance and resilience.

\$30 million for the Building Energy Codes Program

Building energy codes are one of the most cost-effective tools for achieving long-term energy savings. The Department of Energy's Building Energy Codes Program provides technical assistance, tools, and training to state and local governments in the adoption and enforcement of modern, energy-efficient building codes. This modest investment yields significant returns by helping communities lower utility bills, reduce carbon emissions, and increase building

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durability. Enhanced funding will support equitable implementation of energy codes and help ensure that all Americans benefit from the economic and environmental advantages of modern code adoption.

\$400 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a cornerstone of federal efforts to reduce energy burdens on low-income households. WAP improves the energy efficiency of homes, reduces utility costs, and increases health and safety—especially for vulnerable populations such as seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities. The program also supports tens of thousands of skilled jobs and strengthens local economies. Increasing WAP funding to \$400 million will enable more households to benefit from vital upgrades, helping to alleviate energy poverty and address environmental justice concerns.

Investing in energy efficiency is one of the most effective ways to reduce emissions, increase energy security, and create economic opportunities. AIA urges robust support for these programs, which are critical to advancing a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable built environment for all.

For additional information or to discuss these recommendations further, please contact Michele Mihelic at Michele.Mihelic@aia.org or Brittany Meyer at Brittany.Meyer@aia.org.

Thank you for your consideration.