

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator (Mail Code 1101A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Business Leaders Nationwide Urge EPA to Protect ENERGY STAR Dear Administrator Zeldin,

The <u>American Sustainable Business Network</u> (ASBN) convenes business leaders from primarily small and medium enterprises to advocate for a just and sustainable economy. With current news that suggests a reorganization of the agency and potential cuts of vital programs, we wish to express our profound support for the ENERGY STAR program as frontline stakeholders from business communities across the country. We urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) not only to continue this vital initiative but to bolster its resources and reaffirm its central role in America's energy strategy.

The ENERGY STAR program stands as a remarkably successful example of a public-private partnership that delivers substantial, measurable benefits to American consumers, businesses, and the environment. Its potential curtailment or elimination, as has been reported, would be a significant setback.

Since its inception, this program, with its extensive network of partners, has enabled <u>savings of approximately 5 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity</u> for American families and businesses. This monumental energy saving has translated directly into over \$500 billion in avoided energy costs, providing tangible financial relief to consumers and bolstering the bottom lines of participating businesses. These figures, <u>consistently reported and updated by the EPA</u>, paint a clear picture of a program delivering substantial and sustained economic benefits across the nation.

For every dollar invested by the EPA in administering the ENERGY STAR program, American businesses and households have reaped <u>nearly \$350 in energy cost savings</u>. This extraordinary return on investment distinguishes ENERGY STAR as one of the most cost-effective initiatives undertaken by the federal government, leveraging modest public expenditure to unlock vast private sector savings and environmental gains.

ENERGY STAR has a strong role in fostering a vibrant domestic industry centered on energy innovation and skilled labor. Data show that the program supports a substantial segment of the U.S. energy efficiency workforce, <a href="employing over 700,000 Americans">employing over 700,000 Americans</a> in the manufacturing or installation of ENERGY STAR-certified products and equipment.

The ENERGY STAR label, <u>recognized by over 90% of American households</u>, provides simple, credible, and unbiased information that empowers consumers and businesses to make informed purchasing decisions. Its removal would inject confusion into the marketplace, making it significantly harder for purchasers to identify genuinely energy-efficient products and appliances.

The American business community, which has invested significantly in partnership with ENERGY STAR, remains steadfast in its commitment to the program's principles and objectives. There is a profound understanding that energy efficiency is fundamental to economic competitiveness, environmental responsibility, and national well-being. An end to the ENERGY STAR program is counterproductive to building a resilient U.S.-based energy system, would cost businesses in added energy costs, and would negatively impact consumer confidence. The American Sustainable Business Network affirms our support for this critical program and calls on the EPA to listen to the business leaders and consumers who rely on this program for energy cost savings and added trust and transparency.

