September 6, 2016

Dear Members of the Conference Committee:

As a member of the conference committee charged with resolving differences between the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S. 2012) and the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015 (H.R. 8), we the members of the High-Performance Building Coalition urge you to support key provisions important to energy efficiency, water efficiency, and resilience in buildings.

The High-Performance Building Coalition (HPBC) is comprised of more than 200 manufacturers, trade associations, and other stakeholders who support policies and legislation that advance the next generation of buildings. The HPBC is proud to support the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus, chaired by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT).

A number of the HPBC policy priorities for the 114th Congress were included in either or both bills under consideration by the conference committee. In particular, we would like to strongly suggest inclusion of the following provisions in a negotiated bill:

- “Enhanced Energy Efficiency Underwriting Criteria,” (Section 1502, S. 2012): This provision, previously referred to as the Sensible Accounting to Value Energy Act (SAVE Act) would improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting guidelines used by the Federal Housing Administration by accounting for the energy efficiency of a home and the resulting cost savings.

- “WaterSense,” (Section 1023, S.2012; Section 3162, H.R. 8): This provision would authorize a voluntary WaterSense program within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help consumers easily identify water-efficient products and services.

- “Nexus of Energy and Water for Sustainability,” (Section 4101, S.2012): Previously referred to as the Nexus of Energy and Water for Sustainability Act (NEWS Act), this provision would coordinate federal energy-water nexus programs to minimize duplication and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders.

- “Report on Energy and Water Savings Potential from Thermal Insulation,” (Section 3113, S. 2012 as amended by the House of Representatives): This provision calls for a study of the impact and return on investment of thermal insulation of energy and water use systems in federal buildings.
• “Extended Product System Rebate Program,” (Section 1101, S. 2012): This provision would authorize a performance-based rebate program that would encourage the adoption of electric motors and controls that precisely and efficiently manage the energy required for commercial and industrial applications.

• “Energy Efficient Transformer Rebate Program,” (Section 1102, S. 2012): This provision would authorize a two-year, performance-based pilot program to demonstrate the energy and cost savings from replacing older transformers with new efficient transformers in buildings and on the electric grid.

We strongly urge you, as a member of the conference committee, to include these important provisions in a negotiated bill. Doing so will not only reduce energy and water waste, but it will support domestic manufacturing, construction, and design jobs associated with energy and water improvements in buildings across the country.

Should you have any questions, please contact Patrick Hughes, Senior Director of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives at the National Electrical Manufacturers Association and Chair of the HPBC Policy Committee, at patrick.hughes@nema.org or (703)841-3205.

Sincerely,

Members of the High Performance Building Coalition