



[Member of Congress]
[Address]
[Washington, DC XXXXX]

[November X, 2016]

The American Institute of Architects

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Dear [Senator/Representative]:

As Members from both Chambers of Congress continue conference negotiations on comprehensive energy legislation, the undersigned organizations and businesses urge you to protect federal leadership on sustainable buildings by retaining Section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 in any energy policy overhaul.

Section 433 sets fossil fuel reduction targets for new and majorly renovated federal buildings. These targets ratchet up gradually, resulting in a target of zero fossil fuel consumption for buildings entering service after the year 2030. Modeled after the widely-adopted 2030 Challenge standards developed by private-sector architects, this policy aims to make the federal government a leader in designing and building carbon-neutral buildings. Unfortunately, language is on the negotiating table to repeal this critical provision. This repeal serves to bolster the bottom line of fossil fuel interests at the expense of the federal government's commitment to a more sustainable energy future.

We believe that retaining Section 433 is not only environmentally responsible but also fiscally prudent over the decades-long service life of a federal building. Lowered operational expenses for highly efficient buildings have the potential to save the taxpayer millions of dollars over the course of a building's lifecycle. Addressing concerns about its implementation, Section 433 grants broad waiver authority for energy intensive uses or other extenuating circumstances.

In its Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 8, the energy bill passed by the House of Representatives late last year, the Obama Administration stated that it would oppose many of the provisions in that legislation, including the repeal of Section 433. Producing a final piece of legislation which could risk a White House veto would jeopardize the important work done on this issue over the past months and years.

Once again, we urge you on behalf of our organizations and companies to protect Section 433 as you work with your colleagues to reach a consensus on comprehensive energy legislation. We simply cannot address the threat of climate change without reducing carbon pollution from the building sector, and Federal facilities must represent the best in American design, technology, and innovation.

Sincerely,