FY 2022 Appropriations Priorities

The High Performance Buildings Coalition (HPBC) is a coalition of approximately 200 organizations providing guidance and support to the High Performance Buildings Caucus of the U.S. Congress, co-chaired by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) and David McKinley (R-WV). Recognizing that we spend more than 90 percent of our time indoors and that buildings account for 40 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, the Coalition supports legislation and policies that protect life and property, promote innovative building technologies, enhance U.S. economic competitiveness, increase energy and water efficiency in the built-environment, advance sustainable and resilient communities, and support the development of private sector standards, codes and guidelines that address these concerns.

We encourage Congress to recognize the critical role buildings play in our nation’s infrastructure by funding the following programs:

Agency: DOE
Office: EERE
Program: BTO, Solid-State Lighting
Request Amount: $50 million
President’s FY22 Request: TBD

The High Performance Buildings Coalition supports $50 million for the Solid-State Lighting (SSL) program to promote continued research into energy saving solid-state lighting technologies, products and applications, SSL manufacturing, solid-state germicidal ultraviolet, and solid-state light engines for displays.

Agency: DOE
Office: EERE
Program: BTO, Building Energy Codes Program (BECP)
Request Amount: $100 million
President’s FY22 Request: TBD

The High Performance Buildings Coalition supports $100 million for the Building Energy Codes Program to increase training, including certifications, and provide technical assistance to states, local governments, regional collaboratives and organizations that develop, adopt, or assist with the adoption or compliance with model building energy codes and standards to improve building efficiency and resilience.

In conjunction with the Building Energy Codes request, the Coalition supports the following report language:

The Committee recommends $100,000,000 for the Building Energy Codes Program to increase training, including certifications, and provide technical assistance to states, local governments, regional collaboratives and organizations that develop, adopt, or assist with the adoption or compliance with model building energy codes and standards to improve building efficiency and resilience. The Committee
supports continued research to quantify the resilience impacts of energy codes for buildings, occupants, and communities. Recognizing that the pandemic has presented challenges to permit processing for building departments reliant on paper-based systems, the Committee encourages the development of cloud-based software that can facilitate permit processing for projects that conserve energy or promote resilience as well as efforts to help departments modernize systems.

Agency: EPA
Office: Office of Atmospheric Programs
Program: ENERGY STAR
Request Amount: $80 million
President’s FY22 Request: TBD

The High Performance Buildings Coalition supports doubling ENERGY STAR’s current funding to $80 million. With its current $39 million budget, ENERGY STAR saves consumer and businesses more than $35 billion in avoided energy costs annually, generating $900 in savings for every $1 invested. In 2018, ENERGY STAR helped avoid emissions equivalent to 5 percent of the nation’s total emissions.

Agency: EPA
Office: Wastewater Management
Program: WaterSense
Request Amount: $5 million
President’s FY22 Request: TBD

The High Performance Buildings Coalition supports $5 million for the WaterSense program. Since 2006, this program has saved consumers more than $87 billion in water and energy bills. The Coalition and its partners worked to formally authorize the WaterSense program in the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, which was signed into law in October 2018. The Coalition now supports including a new line item of funding for this important program.

Agency: NIST
Office: STRS
Program: Physical Infrastructure and Resilience
Request Amount: Continued support
President’s FY22 Request: TBD

The Coalition is strongly supportive of NIST’s Physical Infrastructure and Resilience program, which conducts and funds research into net-zero energy, high-performance buildings, embedded intelligence in building control and operation, disaster resilience, and fire protection.

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The High Performance Buildings Coalition urges Congress to fund these important programs to maintain and increase the energy and water efficiency, safety, comfort, productivity, resiliency, and sustainability of buildings.

Should you have any questions about these priorities, please contact Coalition Chair Gabe Maser at gmaser@iccsafe.org or (781) 572-0584.