

September 22, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking-Member McMorris Rodgers,

As a coalition of energy and environmental stakeholders, we write in support of ‘The Access to Consumer Energy Information Act’, or ‘e-Access Act’, that was introduced by Representative Peter Welch as H.R. 8519. We respectfully urge you to consider this legislation in the Energy and Commerce Committee at the earliest opportunity.

H.R. 8519 would call on the Department of Energy to establish best practices and protocols for state policymakers to ensure all consumers are able to receive existing and historical information about their time-of-use gas and electric consumption. Access to utility data supports efforts to address climate change through clean energy promotion and energy efficiency. It allows for new technology solutions to help consumers, especially those who are energy burdened, manage their energy data and support electrification by providing grid flexibility so that increased electricity demand can be managed. Innovative technologies can further automate consumption when the grid can most cleanly produce electricity and engage distributed energy resources, like storage and solar energy, more intelligently.

H.R. 8519 is the key for decarbonization at its most fundamental – as we can’t manage what we can’t measure – and data access is the only way to ensure equitable distribution of energy management resources and a fully efficient, digitized, and resilient grid.

Currently, it is estimated that more than 90% of the 130 million meters in the U.S. have either been converted to smart meters or are under contract to be replaced by the end of 2022. This number is now further accelerated as many older smart meters are intended for upgrade due to the new allocations to the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This demonstrates that data sharing policies such as e-Access need to be put in place immediately to fully realize the benefits that smart grid and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology will have for consumers.

We commend Representative Peter Welch in his leadership and collaboration in developing and introducing the E-Access Act, and we encourage you to bring H.R. 8519 before your Committee for a hearing as you continue to mark-up energy legislation. We are happy to provide your respective staff with additional information and we offer our full support in helping it to advance in Congress and bring the need for data access protocols to the attention of the Department of Energy. Should you have any questions, please contact Kara Saul Rinaldi at kara@anndyl.com.

Sincerely,

Building Performance Association (BPA)

E4theFuture

Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)

Rachel Carson Council

Brighter Green

US Green Building Council (USGBC)

Environmental Defense Fund

RMI

Southern Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA)

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)

Green America

People's Justice Council

CC: Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy