



SUPPORT ENERGY STAR

119th Congress
Second Session

Support ENERGY STAR®

STATUS – Signed Into Law

- The House Appropriations Committee allocated \$33 million for the program and included it in a package of spending bills (H.R. 6938), which passed the House on a 397 to 28 vote, and the Senate by a vote of 82-15.
- The President signed the bill into law on January 23, 2026 (Public Law 119-74).
- Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Chairman of the House Interior, Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, are champions of the program.

THE ASK

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International urges members of the House and Senate to: 1) continue funding for this proven public-private partnership that allows commercial building owners and operators to measure and optimize energy performance to reduce operating costs and save energy and 2) to support the transition of primary management authority for the program from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the Department of Energy (DOE) in 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 formally established ENERGY STAR as a joint EPA–DOE program, requiring the agencies to divide responsibilities through interagency agreements. EPA has been the primary management authority and therefore receives the lion’s share of the operating budget, overseeing product standards, certifications, trademarks, partnerships, and key systems like Portfolio Manager. DOE’s oversight focused on providing technical expertise, research, and limited support for ENERGY STAR’s product-related standards.

On March 3–4, 2026, EPA and DOE formally signed and began implementing a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that established a formal shift in leadership of the ENERGY STAR program, designating DOE as the new lead federal agency while preserving EPA’s continuing role as a collaborating partner. The MOA also replaces earlier interagency agreements from 1996 and 2009 and sets a 10-year term, signaling a long-term, structured realignment rather than a severing of EPA’s involvement.

SUMMARY

BOMA is a multi-decade supporter of the Energy Star program. The portfolio manager program within Energy Star serves a critical role in the commercial real estate industry, enabling building owners and operators to measure and optimize energy performance and reduce operational costs. Importantly, investors and tenants know that certified buildings will have lower energy costs, which will save them money. While private-sector tools have value, Energy Star remains the trusted, industry-standard solution for the following reasons:

-more-