

SUPPORT ENERGY STAR

119th Congress

STATUS

For FY 2026, both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees allocated funding for Energy Star within the EPA's portion of the Interior and Environment spending bill: House allocation was \$32 million; Senate allocation was \$36 million. The combined bill, which was packaged with the Energy and Water, and Commerce-Justice-Science spending bills, passed the House on a 397 to 28 vote. The Senate is expected to take up and pass the bill the week of January 12th, and upon passage, the bill will be transmitted to the President for his signature.

- Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Chairman of the House Interior, Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, is a champion of the program.
- Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is a champion of the program.

THE ASK

The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International urges members of the House and Senate to support the Energy Star program this year and years to come.

BACKGROUND

BOMA is a multi-decade supporter of the Energy Star program, administered by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, and urges Congress to continue funding the proven public-private partnership that allows commercial building owners and operators to measure and optimize energy performance to reduce operating costs and save energy.

In 2025, the Administration undertook a review of the program as it reorganized the government to implement the President's agenda more fully. Upon completion of the review, the EPA reorganized the Agency and placed the program under the new Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA). Additionally, House and Senate Appropriators included funding in their respective versions of the fiscal year 2026 Interior and Environment appropriations bill to reiterate congressional support and fund the program. Now that the program has certainty, Congress needs to pass the FY26 spending bill to fund the program through 2026.

SUMMARY

The Energy Star program, specifically the portfolio manager program, 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:

- Over 330,000 buildings comprising nearly 25 percent of U.S. commercial building floor space used the voluntary Portfolio Manager in the last year, underscoring its widespread adoption and effectiveness.
- Energy Star certified buildings signal lower utility bills and higher quality for customers, investors, and tenants, delivering value that no other program can replicate.

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BOMA
International

- In 2024 alone, ENERGY STAR helped save 230 billion kWh of electricity and avoided \$14 billion in energy costs, driving measurable environmental and economic benefits.
- Dozens of state and local governments use the data as the IT backbone of their voluntary programs, benchmarking, disclosure, and Building Performance Standards laws, reducing regulatory fragmentation and enabling consistent compliance.
- Energy Star Portfolio Manager program provides credible, nationally recognized performance metrics on energy use, water use, emissions, and waste generation/disposal that allow owners and managers to benchmark and improve performance.
- As a federal program, Energy Star Portfolio Manager facilitates consistent and trusted data collection and distribution, occupying a pivotal place in the market that privatization could not effectively fill.
- Numerous state and local level programs support Portfolio Manager as the accepted, non-partisan, and logical tool for measuring and managing building energy use, which supports energy demand management and growth. The alternative would be regulatory chaos with a “patchwork” of local compliance requirements.

BOMA's Commitment

BOMA integrates Portfolio Manager into its flagship programs—BOMA 360 and BOMA BEST—to advance high-performance building practices. We actively advocate for continued congressional funding and oppose efforts to privatize or dismantle the program, which would jeopardize consistency, increase costs, and undermine progress toward decarbonization goals.