



## ISSUE UPDATE

### **FY 08 House Appropriations for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency: House Votes for Increase in EERE**

The House Committee on Appropriations reported the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill of 2008 (H.R. 2641, H. Rept. 110-85) out of Committee on June 6. The House Bill appropriates \$1.87 billion for Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE/RE) programs for FY 2008, \$640 million (52%) more than the Administration's FY 2008 request of \$1.23 billion and \$400 million more than FY 07 enacted. On June 19 and 20 the bill was considered on the House floor, but final passage has not occurred pending attachment of earmarks.

Thirty-five amendments were considered, three of which directly related to EE/RE. An amendment by Rep. Campbell (R-CA) to cut the Low-income Weatherization program by \$101,550,000 to \$144,000,000 was defeated 107-320. Rep. Campbell said, "It is one of those things on that list of programs that a number of people have that are saying these are some of the most inefficient programs in the Federal Government today, and this is one of them that certainly should be reduced or perhaps eliminated." Rep. Olver (D-MA) responded by saying, "Oddly enough, the gentleman from California chooses to attack the one program that gives direct help to low-income households in this country."

#### **Renewable Energy Appropriations**

The House restored funding for two core DOE renewable energy programs, geothermal energy and hydropower, which had been eliminated in the Administration's FY 2008 budget request. The House appropriated \$44.2 million for **geothermal energy**, a nearly nine-fold increase over the \$5.0 million enacted in FY 2007 and almost double the \$22.3 million enacted in FY 2006. The House appropriated \$22.0 million for **hydropower**, well above the \$0.5 million enacted in 2006.

The House increased funding for **biomass and biorefinery systems** R&D to \$250 million, which is \$70.7 million (39%) greater than the FY 2008 request. The House increased funding for **wind power** to \$57.5 million, an increase of \$17.4 million (44%) over the Administration's FY 2008 request. The House increased funding for **solar power** to \$200 million, \$51.7 million (35%) above the Administration's FY 2008 request. The Administration's request for \$7.5 million for the Asia Pacific Partnership was not approved by the House.

#### **Energy Efficiency Appropriations**

The House bill boosts funding for **building technologies** to \$146 million, \$60.0 million (69%) more than the FY 2008 request. The **Federal Energy Management Program** received \$24.0 million, \$7.2 million (43%) greater than the FY 2008 request.

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Funding for **industrial technologies** rose to \$57 million, \$11.0 million (24%) more than the FY 2008 request, and funding of **vehicle technologies** increased to \$235 million, \$59.3 million (34%) above the FY 2008 request. **Weatherization assistance program grants** are increased by \$97 million to \$241 million, 67% above the FY 2008 request. And, the **State Energy Program Grants** received \$49.5 million, a \$4.0 million (9%) increase over the FY 2008 request but the same as FY 2007 enacted.

<b>House Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2641): DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy</b>			
<b>Energy Supply and Conservation (dollars in thousands)</b>	<b>FY 2007 Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2008 Budget Request</b>	<b>FY 2008 House Bill</b>
Biomass and Biorefinery Systems R&D	199,687	179,263	250,000
Geothermal Technology	5,000	0	44,258
Hydrogen Technology	193,551	213,000	194,600
Hydropower	0	0	22,000
Solar Energy	159,372	148,304	200,000
Wind Energy	49,319	40,069	57,500
Facilities and Infrastructure	107,035	6,982	195,699
Program Support (RE)	10,930	13,281	18,930
Building Technologies	104,329	86,456	146,456
Federal Energy Management Program	19,480	16,791	27,000
Industrial Technologies	56,563	45,998	57,000
Vehicle Technologies	188,024	176,138	235,441
Weatherization Assistance Program Grants	204,550	144,000	245,550
State Energy Program Grants	49,457	45,501	49,451
State Energy Activities	9,348	0	0
Gateway Deployment	0	0	0
Asia Pacific Partnership	0	7,500	0
International Renewable Energy Program	9,473	0	10,000
Tribal Energy Activities	3,957	2,957	5,000
Renewable Energy Production Incentive	4,946	4,946	4,946
Program Direction (EE)	99,264	105,013	110,013
Use of prior year balances	0	0	0
<b>Total, Energy Supply and Conservation</b>	<b>\$1,474,285</b>	<b>\$1,236,199</b>	<b>\$1,873,844</b>

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