



**THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS**

May 19, 2015

Dear Congresswoman Eddie Johnson,

On behalf of its more than 85,000 members across the United States, the American Institute of Architects urges you to oppose H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015, which is scheduled for consideration in the House of Representatives this week. This legislation will severely curtail research into energy efficiency, delaying the development of critical technologies that will contribute to the future of high performing buildings.

Of major concern to the building industry, H.R. 1806 would strip the Department of Energy (DOE) of its authority to provide grants and technical assistance to support the development of standards for high performance buildings. The buildings of the future will cost vastly less to operate and reduce resource consumption through the use of better technologies, modeling, and monitoring. Uniform standards, metrics, and goals will help direct the implementation of new building technologies to realize better performance.

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act would sharply reduce the authorized funding levels for critical federal research efforts as well. Under this legislation, research and development activities at the DoE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) would suffer a 29 percent cut - nearly half a billion dollars below its FY2015 appropriated level and 50 percent below the President's requested level for FY2016. AIA members work closely with EERE and its Building Technologies Office to pursue new energy saving solutions for homes and businesses. The funding levels proposed in this legislation would stifle that innovation.

DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) would also see a reduction of 50 percent in its authorization from FY2015 appropriated levels under H.R. 1806. ARPA-E supports the type of high-risk, high-reward projects which may not be economical for the private sector in the short term, but which can produce transformational technologies in the longer term for the building sector and the wider economy. The federal government should support forward thinking policies that will reduce energy costs for federal agencies as well as for ordinary citizens, reducing government spending and keeping more money in the pockets of American families.

Architects stand ready to design the next generation of high performing buildings, which will be healthier, more sustainable, and more energy efficient than ever before. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 would move us away from that vision. We urge you to reject this short-sighted legislation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Goldberg  
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The American Institute of Architects

