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NASEO Applauds Bipartisan, Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015

Washington, DC – The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), which represents the nation’s 56 State and Territory Energy Offices, applauds the bipartisan *Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015*, released by the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee this week. Senator Lisa Murkowski, (R-AK) and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) unveiled the broad, bipartisan bill which resulted from months of listening sessions, legislative hearings, and negotiations. NASEO provided testimony and suggestions on a number of the bill’s key provisions.

The bill would reauthorize both the U.S. State Energy Program (SEP) at \$90 million and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) at \$350 million. The importance of the bill’s support for the work of the State Energy Offices in advancing cost-effective energy efficiency, pursuing energy-related economic development, and improving energy emergency mitigation and response activities is tremendous. In addition to SEP, many of the bill’s other provisions also aid states and their private sector partners in taking practical actions that will produce more affordable energy, save energy, and enhance the reliability of our electricity and liquid fuel systems. Other important provisions of the bill address grid reliability, federal land management, hydropower improvements, geothermal energy, liquefied natural gas, marine hydrokinetic energy, biomass, methane hydrates, grid storage, hybrid micro-grid systems, the energy-water nexus, state oversight of oil and gas programs, and energy workforce development. The bill also advances building energy codes that save consumers substantial energy costs.

“State energy officials have, for many years, recognized the need for state and federal coordination and public and private sector partnerships to modernize the nation’s energy systems and advance important state and federal energy policies and programs that enable economic development and enhance the security of our energy infrastructure. The Chair and Ranking Member have done excellent work, and this bill should be passed by both houses of Congress. If there is an opportunity during the legislative process to include the following additional bills it would be a very positive step: Residential Energy Savings Act, the PREPARE Act, the EPIC bill and the SAVE Act.” said David Terry, Executive Director of NASEO.

About NASEO – NASEO is the only national non-profit organization for the governor-designated energy officials from each of the 56 states and territories. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO serves as a resource for and about state energy offices and advocates the interests of the states to Congress and federal agencies.

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About the State Energy Offices – The State Energy Offices were formed by the states to advise and support their governors and legislatures on a broad range of energy policy and program issues and to partner with the private sector, with a particular focus on advancing cost-effective energy efficiency, renewable energy and other domestic fuels. State Energy Directors typically advise their governors on energy issues and lead state energy planning and policy development aimed at strengthening the resilience of energy systems and fostering economic development.
