

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014 (Shaheen-Portman)

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness (ESIC) Act will save taxpayers money by making our country more energy efficient. The bipartisan bill, commonly referred to as Shaheen-Portman, specifically promotes the use of energy efficiency technologies in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy. The result of the lowered consumption and investments in energy efficient technologies is good for our economy and good for our environment.

According to [CBO](#), S. 2262 will decrease direct federal spending by \$12 million between 2014 and 2024.

This bipartisan bill uses a variety of low-cost tools to make it easier for private sector energy users to become more efficient while also making the country's largest energy user – the federal government – more efficient. The bill incentivizes the use of efficiency technologies that are commercially available today, can be widely deployed across the country, and quickly pay for themselves through energy savings.

The Shaheen-Portman bill enjoys strong bipartisan support along with the endorsement of various business coalitions, environmental groups, and labor. The bill will help speed the transition to a more energy efficient economy, increasing both our economic competitiveness and our energy security for the coming decades, while driving economic growth and encouraging private sector job creation.

Highlights of What the Bill Would Do:

- **BUILDINGS**
 - Strengthens the voluntary national model building codes to make new homes and commercial buildings more energy efficient while working with states and private industry to make the code-writing process more transparent.
 - Provides new restrictions on how DOE participates in the code development process, requiring DOE to provide notice and comment of code suggestions in the Federal Register, to consider the economic feasibility of achieving its suggestions, and to consider how its code suggestions impact small businesses.

- **MANUFACTURERS**
 - Directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to work closely with private sector partners to encourage research, development and commercialization of innovative energy efficient technology and processes for industrial applications.
 - Establishes a voluntary energy efficient branding program to help make companies' supply chains more efficient.

- **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**
 - Repeals existing law requiring the federal government to phase-out fossil fuel-generated energy in buildings by 2030.
 - Requires the federal government – the single largest energy user in the country – to adopt energy saving techniques for computers, saving energy and taxpayer dollars.
 - Allows federal agencies to use existing funds to update plans for new federal buildings, using the most current building efficiency standards.

- **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**
 - Creates an exemption for thermal storage water heaters under DOE efficiency standards that go into effect in April 2015, so that large grid-enabled electric-resistance water heaters can continue to be manufactured for use only in demand response programs.
 - Requires all Federal agency issued, insured, purchased, or securitized home mortgages to account for energy efficiency in the mortgage appraisal/underwriting process.