

# **The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (Portman-Shaheen)**

The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act will create jobs, reduce emissions, and save taxpayers money by making our country more energy efficient. The bipartisan bill, commonly referred to as Portman-Shaheen, 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.

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 Portman-Shaheen bill enjoys strong bipartisan support along with the endorsement of various business coalitions, environmental groups, commercial and residential builders 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 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. Ensures that adoption of these national model building energy codes remains voluntary and at the discretion of the states.
- Creates a new grant program to assist homebuilders, trades and contractors to cost-effectively implement updated building energy codes.
- Trains the next generation of workers in energy-efficient commercial building design and operation through university-based Building Training and Research Assessment Centers.
- Streamlines available federal energy efficiency programs and financing to help improve efficiency and lower energy costs for our nation's schools.
- Improves the energy efficiency of homes by creating a voluntary program to account for energy efficient features through the mortgage appraisal and underwriting process for federally backed mortgages.

### **• 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.
- Expands DOE's Industrial Assessment Centers to include community colleges and trade schools, and creates an internship and apprenticeship program within the IAC initiative.
- Helps manufacturers reduce energy use and become more competitive by incentivizing the use of more energy efficient electric motors and transformers.

### **• FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

- Requires the federal government – the single largest energy user in the country – to adopt energy savings 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.
- Establishes long-term energy and water efficiency goals for the federal government, which will help save taxpayers millions of dollars.