

August 12, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman and Ranking-Member Murkowski,

We represent a coalition of companies and non-profit organizations involved in high-tech, smart grid, energy efficiency, demand response, commercial buildings, and home performance and we write in support of the bipartisan 'Electric Consumer Right to Know Act', or 'e-KNOW Act', that was introduced by Senators Mark Udall and Scott Brown as S.1029. We respectfully urge you to consider this legislation in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee at the earliest opportunity.

S. 1029 would establish a right on the part of all consumers to receive existing information about their electricity usage, including that which is being created as smart meters and other new technologies are deployed. Historically, the nation's electricity system has not provided consumers with much information to use in guiding their electricity consumption, unlike most other consumer areas today. Research and experience to date show that when consumers get more information about their electricity usage, they will act upon that information to save energy and reduce their bills.

S. 1029 is consumer empowerment at its most fundamental – give people and businesses information that they can then use to make choices that make sense for them.

Currently, it is estimated that approximately half of the 130 million meters in the U.S. have either been converted to smart meters or are under contract to be replaced in the next few years. This reinforces the idea that the smart grid, and the new information it will create, is not in the future. It is happening now, and policy such as e-KNOW needs to be put in place to immediately realize many of the benefits that the smart grid will have for consumers.

We commend Senator Udall's and Senator Brown's leadership and bipartisan collaboration in developing and introducing the Electric Consumer Right to Know Act, and we encourage you to bring S.1029 before your Committee as you continue to mark-up energy legislation. We are happy to provide your respective staff with additional information to support this Bill and we offer our full support in helping to advance it toward enactment by the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

Aclara
Ambient
Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International
Bridge Energy Group
Comverge
Conservation Services Group
Constellation NewEnergy
Control4
Cooper Power Systems
Corporate Systems Engineering
Demand Response and Smart Grid Coalition
Digital Energy Solutions Campaign
Direct Energy
Echelon
Efficiency First
Electrolux
EMC Corporation
eMeter
Energy Curtailment Specialists
Energy Future Coalition
EnerNOC
Enspira Solutions
GE
Google
Honeywell
Ice Energy
Infineon Technologies
Ingersoll Rand
Institute for Market Transformation
Intel Corporation
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Landis+Gyr
Lockheed Martin
Natural Resources Defense Council
Schneider Electric
Sensus
Siemens
Silver Spring Networks
SmartSynch
Steffes
Tendril
The Real Estate Roundtable
Trilliant Networks
Tropos Networks

UISOL

Verizon

Whirlpool

CC: The Honorable Mark Udall, The Honorable Scott Brown, The Honorable Ron Wyden, The Honorable Tim Johnson, The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu, The Honorable Maria Cantwell, The Honorable Bernard Sanders, The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, The Honorable Al Franken, The Honorable Joe Manchin, The Honorable Christopher A. Coons, The Honorable John Barrasso, The Honorable James E. Risch, The Honorable Mike Lee, The Honorable Rand Paul, The Honorable Daniel Coats, The Honorable Rob Portman, The Honorable John Hoeven, The Honorable Dean Heller, The Honorable Bob Corker