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ASHRAE supports this bill, which is projected to save consumers \$16.2 billion a year, significantly reduce CO2 and related emissions, and create more than 190,000 jobs.

“By establishing a national energy strategy, we can create jobs, save taxpayers billions, make manufacturers more competitive, and protect the environment,” said Senator Portman. “Our bill is the equivalent of taking 37 million homes off the grid, and I look forward to renewing our efforts to promote this commonsense legislation.”

“Energy efficiency is the cheapest and fastest way to address our energy challenges,” Senator Shaheen said. “Our bipartisan bill will create jobs, save consumers billions, and drastically reduce pollution in a smart, effective and affordable way – that’s why it enjoys broad bipartisan support. A vote to pass our legislation is long overdue and I hope the overwhelming support behind this bill will help carry it through the Senate.”

The bill is supported by over 250 businesses and nonprofit organizations. The bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Chris Coons (D-DE), Al Franken (D-MN), John Hoeven (R-ND), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Mark Warner (D-VA), and Roger Wicker (R-MS).

The next step is for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act to be considered by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, and then brought to the Senate floor for a vote. Timing for these stages has not yet been determined, but is expected to begin sometime in April.

Representatives Blackburn and Schrader Reintroduce Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act

The Senate’s approach to energy legislation is to have a small number of large, comprehensive bills, however the House is taking a different track, opting for a larger number of small bills. As evidence of this, on Wednesday Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) reintroduced their comprehensive energy efficiency bill (see above), and last week Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR) reintroduced their Energy Savings and Building Efficiency Act ([H.R.1273](#)), which focuses only on building energy codes, workforce training, and building labeling.

H.R.1273 is identical to the version that was introduced last year, and, if significantly improved, has the potential to clarify the role of the U.S. Department of Energy in the development and state adoption of the model building energy codes. ASHRAE continues to be engaged in productive discussions with Representatives Blackburn and Schrader, and a large number of stakeholders to develop a compromise bill that all can support.