



Adopted Policy Resolution 02.2024

## **Urging Continued Funding for Weatherization Assistance**

### **Sponsor**

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Maryland

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of harsh weather and natural disasters pose a significant threat to public health, electrical grids, and local economies, requiring immediate and proactive measures to mitigate negative effects and increase resiliency; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress established the Weatherization Assistance Program in 1976 to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the Weatherization Assistance Program funds are appropriated by Congress to the U.S. Department of Energy, administering formula grants under the U.S. Department of Energy guidelines to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. territories; and

**WHEREAS**, each state agency conducts its own procurement process to award funds to vendors and contractors; and

**WHEREAS**, weatherization and energy efficiency initiatives have been proven to reduce energy consumption, lower emissions, and enhance the resilience of the electric grid against extreme weather events; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in weatherization and energy efficiency not only reduces energy costs for households and businesses but also creates jobs, stimulates economic growth, and improves the overall quality of life for residents across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the promotion of weatherization assistance and energy efficiency programs aligns with the nation’s goal of achieving a resilient and environmentally responsible energy future; and

**WHEREAS**, federal funding plays a crucial role in supporting weatherization assistance and grid resilience programs, such as the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program, and helps provide the resources necessary for implementation, innovation, and expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Weatherization Assistance Program returns \$1.72 in energy benefits and \$2.78 in non-energy benefits for every \$1.00 invested, including improved health, safety, and comfort for low-income households. It also helps to revitalize communities by stimulating economic growth and improving energy efficiency, thereby reducing grid strain and environmental impacts.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern States Energy Board hereby urges the federal government to prioritize and increase necessary funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program and related weatherization assistance. Such funding should be allocated towards the development, implementation, and expansion of programs aimed at:

- Enhancing energy efficiency in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors; and
- Supporting weatherization efforts for low-income households and historically vulnerable communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board emphasizes the importance of public education and outreach initiatives to raise awareness about the benefits of weatherization and energy efficiency, promote behavioral changes, and empower individuals and businesses to adopt energy-saving practices that lessen grid instability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board encourages investments in research and development to foster innovation in energy-efficient technologies, materials, and

practices, thereby advancing the effectiveness and affordability of weatherization, energy efficiency, and resiliency solutions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board requests enhanced collaboration and coordination among federal agencies, state governments, local authorities, non-profit organizations, and private sector stakeholders to maximize the impact of weatherization efforts and ensure equitable access to benefits across all communities.