



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact
Kara Saul Rinaldi
202.276.1773

“Show Me The Data!”

Bi-Partisan Data Access Bill Will Help Contractors and Homeowners

Washington, DC – May 23, 2011 – Late last week, Senators Mark Udall (D-CO) and Scott Brown (R-MA) introduced S. 1029 the “Electric Consumer Right to Know Act” or “E-Know. Efficiency First, a trade association of home-retrofit contractors from across the country, applauds the legislation as an important step to ensure that a home owner, or a third party they designate, will have easy access to their electricity usage information.

"The data that makes-up a homeowner's utility bill is the key ingredient to reducing that bill," said Greg Thomas, CEO of Performance Systems Development and Chairman of Efficiency First. "We embrace accountability and think the ability to track savings will lead to more and better building upgrades in all sectors."

"With this data I will be able to give the homeowners my company works with a much more accurate picture of the energy and money they will save when we make their home more efficient," noted Brian Bovio, Operations Manager for Bovio Advanced Comfort & Energy Solutions in Sicklerville, NJ.

The effort to “true-up” and calibrate modeling software to an individual home by using the last year’s utility bills has become common-place among many home performance manufacturers. Unfortunately, contractors currently must undertake tedious inputs of 12-months of paper utility bills and expect delays and trouble in receiving them. Easy access to this data will help a contractor not only quickly explain the home performance upgrade to their customer, but it will give them valuable information about the homes energy use that will make the upgrade more cost-effective.

"Home-retrofit contractors today are not like contractors 10 years ago--they are digital and data savvy," said Thomas. "A contractor can take data provided under this legislation, place it in a model, and explain to the homeowner their electricity use and how to retrofit their home for the most cost-effective efficiency improvements."

While supporting the legislation as a key step toward energy data access, Efficiency First recommends members of Congress consider expanding this, or subsequent legislation, to include access to natural gas data. "The more concrete energy usage data, the more a consumer and a contractor will know about a home, and the better the upgrade will be," concluded Thomas.