

Warren – Crapo Amendment # 1947

Department of Energy Operational Energy Efficiency Study

This Amendment, without creating any new programs or spending any new dollars, would improve the public and private adoption of operational energy efficiency technologies, saving money for both the federal government and the private sector, by directing the Department of Energy to quantify the cost savings from operational energy efficiency technologies and recommend methodologies for measuring those savings.

Operational energy efficiency technologies can help building owners and manufacturers continuously monitor their energy use and keep their facilities and industrial processes operating at optimal efficiency – saving both energy and money in the process.

- The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 1392) addresses operational energy efficiency in Title III.
- Section 301 of the bill directs the Secretary of Energy to issue guidance for Federal agencies on advanced tools promoting energy efficiency through information and communications technologies, including computer hardware, operation and maintenance processes, energy efficiency software and power management tools.

The missing piece is an analysis that actually quantifies the energy and cost savings from operational energy efficiency tools.

- Because there has not been a definitive study quantifying the energy and cost savings of operational energy efficiency programs and services – or the establishment of any uniform methodology for quantifying those savings – industry has been slow to embrace these cost-saving energy efficiency tools.
- A nationally-recommended methodology for evaluating energy and cost savings would help promote the adoption of operational energy efficiency technologies.

This amendment would direct the Department of Energy to conduct a study on advanced operational energy efficiency tools that would help both the public and the private sector make evidence-based decisions and better evaluate their potential energy and cost savings.

- The amendment would require the Secretary of Energy, no later than one year after enactment, to conduct a study quantifying the energy savings benefits of operational efficiency programs and services
- Operational energy efficiency programs and services are programs and services that use information and communications technologies (including computer hardware, energy efficiency software, and power management tools) to operate buildings and equipment in the optimum manner at the optimum times.
- The study would also recommend methodologies to evaluate, measure and verify energy and cost savings from operational energy efficiency tools.
- This study does not authorize any new federal spending and will not score.