

**WHEREAS**, energy challenges before cities include sustained dependence on energy supplies from other areas of the nation and the world, uncertainty about reliability and costs as climatic events escalate, and how to cost-effectively accelerate local energy efficiency and renewable energy development; and

**WHEREAS**, a stronger federal partnership with local governments on investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy would support local efforts to confront these energy challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the transportation and building sectors are our nation’s leading sources of energy consumption and associated emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, these successful city initiatives could be expanded dramatically and yield greater results if the federal-local partnership was strengthened to support and accelerate such local action; and

26           **WHEREAS**, the Energy Independence & Security Act of 2007 (PL 110-  
27 140) established an innovative and successful mechanism to support such local  
28 government efforts when it authorized \$10 billion in funding for the Energy  
29 Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program at the United States  
30 Department of Energy; and

31           **WHEREAS**, the EECBG program includes direct formula grants to cities,  
32 counties, and states to invest in new energy efficiency and renewable energy  
33 strategies, programs, and projects; and

34           **WHEREAS**, EECBG is a flexible program that allows local governments to  
35 invest in a wide array of locally determined energy efficiency and renewable  
36 energy projects, including those focused on the transportation and building sectors;  
37 and

38           **WHEREAS**, EECBG is a federal-local partnership that empowers local  
39 communities, and cities and counties that have a proven track record of using the  
40 program to deliver a lot of bang for the buck; and

41           **WHEREAS**, Congress appropriated \$3.2 billion for EECBG in Fiscal Year  
42 (FY) 2009, including \$2.8 billion for formula grants to cities, counties, and states;  
43 and

44           **WHEREAS**, the City used its \$7.5 million FY 2009 EECBG formula grant  
45 allocation to:

- 46           • Install energy retrofits at the Technicenter building,
- 47           • Retrofit interior and exterior lighting at municipal facilities,
- 48           • Implement a biogas generation project at Hornsby Bend, and
- 49           • Weatherize and duct seal municipal buildings; and

50           **WHEREAS**, these projects provided significant return on investment,  
51 decreasing the City’s energy bill, and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions; and

52           **WHEREAS**, the City’s EECBG success was not unique, with a 2015 Oak  
53 Ridge National Laboratory study, *National Evaluation of the Energy Efficiency*  
54 *and Conservation Block Grant*, determining the program to be exceptionally  
55 effective and finding that local governments put FY 2009 EECBG funding to  
56 excellent use, investing in projects that:

- 57           • Saved 409 million Metric Million British Thermal Units (MMBTu) of
- 58           energy;
- 59           • Generated 4.2 MMBTu of renewable energy,
- 60           • Created 62,902 jobs,
- 61           • Avoided 25.7 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions,
- 62           • Saved \$1.7 billion in social costs of carbon, and
- 63           • Reduced local government energy bills by \$5.2 billion; and

64           **WHEREAS**, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (PL 117-58)  
65 reauthorized EECBG for one year (FY 2022) and appropriated \$550 million in in  
66 FY 2022 funding for another round of EECBG grants; and

67           **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Energy will soon make  
68 formula grant allocations of FY 2022 EECBG funds, with the City receiving  
69 \$855,340; and

70           **WHEREAS**, Representatives Greg Stanton (D-AZ), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-  
71 PA), Marc Veasey (D-TX), and Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ) have introduced  
72 bipartisan legislation, federal House of Representatives’ bill 1520 (HR 1520) that

would reauthorize EECBG at \$3.5 billion per year for FY 2024 through FY 2028;  
**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City of Austin urges Congress to enact a multiyear reauthorization of EECBG.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City of Austin thanks Representatives Stanton, Fitzpatrick, Veasey, and Van Drew for introducing HR 1520, and urges the Texas House delegation to cosponsor HR 1520.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

The City of Austin calls on Congress to support robust funding of \$3.5 billion annually for EECBG, beginning in FY 2024.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2023    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Myrna Rios  
City Clerk