

ALA American Library Association

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Kelly Speakes-Backman
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

Re: Request for Information on Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities
87 FR 20828, RFI No. DE-FOA-0002715

Dear Ms. Speakes-Backman,

The American Library Association (ALA) respectfully submits these comments in response to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) request for information (RFI) regarding energy improvements at public school facilities pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), P.L. 117-58. ALA encourages EERE to implement policies that promote sustainable and healthy environments for librarians, students, and staff.

As the RFI recognizes, school libraries are significant components of school facilities.¹ We encourage EERE, in implementing Section 40541 of the IIJA, to support energy improvements in all areas of school buildings, including school and joint-use libraries. In response to Category 2, Question 1, we recommend that needs assessments review all areas of the school campus, including libraries, to identify needed improvements. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathi Kromer
Associate Executive Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
American Library Association

¹ RFI, at 1 (“The 100,000 public K-12 schools across the United States (U.S.) contain the classrooms, libraries, cafeterias, playgrounds, and gyms where 50 million students learn, eat, build friendships, and exercise.”).

The American Library Association (“ALA”) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library's role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all.