

1 wide activities, including technical assistance and re-  
2 gional studies and coordination.

3 **SEC. 198. OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY.**

4 Section 319 of the Federal Power Act is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 319. OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY.**

7 “(a) OFFICE.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
9 within the Commission an Office of Consumer Advoca-  
10 cy to serve as an advocate for the public interest.  
11 The Office of Administrative Litigation within the  
12 Commission shall be incorporated into the Office of  
13 Consumer Advocacy.

14 “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by  
15 a Director to be appointed by the President by and  
16 with the advice and consent of the Senate from  
17 among individuals who are licensed attorneys admit-  
18 ted to the Bar of any State or of the District of Co-  
19 lumbia and who have experience in public utility pro-  
20 ceedings.

21 “(3) DUTIES.—The Office may—

22 “(A) represent the interests of energy cus-  
23 tomers—

24 “(i) on matters before the Commission  
25 concerning rates or service of public utili-

1 ties and natural gas companies under the  
2 jurisdiction of the Commission;

3 “(ii) as amicus curiae, in the review in  
4 the courts of the United States of rulings  
5 by the Commission in such matters; and

6 “(iii) as amicus, in hearings and pro-  
7 ceedings in other Federal regulatory agen-  
8 cies and commissions related to such mat-  
9 ters;

10 “(B) monitor and review energy customer  
11 complaints and grievances on matters con-  
12 cerning rates or service of public utilities and  
13 natural gas companies under the jurisdiction of  
14 the Commission;

15 “(C) investigate independently, or within  
16 the context of formal proceedings, the services  
17 provided by, the rates charged by, and the valu-  
18 ation of the properties of, public utilities and  
19 natural gas companies under the jurisdiction of  
20 the Commission;

21 “(D) develop means, such as public dis-  
22 semination of information, consultative services,  
23 and technical assistance, to ensure, to the max-  
24 imum extent practicable, that the interests of  
25 energy consumers are adequately represented in

1 the course of any hearing or proceeding de-  
2 scribed in subparagraph (A);

3 “(E) collect data concerning rates or serv-  
4 ice of public utilities and natural gas companies  
5 under the jurisdiction of the Commission; and

6 “(F) prepare and issue reports and rec-  
7 ommendations.

8 “(4) COMPENSATION AND POWERS.—The Di-  
9 rector shall be compensated at Level IV of the Exec-  
10 utive Schedule. The Director may—

11 “(A) employ not more than 25 full-time  
12 professional employees at appropriate levels in  
13 the GS Scale and such additional support per-  
14 sonnel as required; and

15 “(B) procure temporary and intermittent  
16 services as needed.

17 “(5) INFORMATION FROM OTHER FEDERAL  
18 AGENCIES.—The Director may request, from any de-  
19 partment, agency, or instrumentality of the United  
20 States such information as he deems necessary to  
21 carry out his functions under this section. Upon  
22 such request, the head of the department, agency, or  
23 instrumentality concerned shall, to the extent prac-  
24 ticable and authorized by law, provide such informa-  
25 tion to the Office.

1       “(b) CONSUMER ADVOCACY ADVISORY COM-  
2 MITTEE.—

3           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall es-  
4 tablish an advisory committee to be known as Con-  
5 sumer Advocacy Advisory Committee (in this section  
6 referred to as the ‘Advisory Committee’) to review  
7 rates, services, and disputes and to make rec-  
8 ommendations to the Director.

9           “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Director shall ap-  
10 point 5 members to the Advisory Committee includ-  
11 ing—

12           “(A) 2 individuals representing State util-  
13 ity consumer advocates; and

14           “(B) 1 individual, from a nongovernmental  
15 organization representing consumers.

16           “(3) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee  
17 shall meet at such frequency as may be required to  
18 carry out its duties.

19           “(4) REPORTS.—The Director shall provide for  
20 the publication of recommendations of the Advisory  
21 Committee on the public website established for the  
22 Office.

23           “(5) DURATION.—Notwithstanding any other  
24 provision of law, the Advisory Committee shall con-

1       tinue in operation during the period for which the  
2       Office exists.

3       “(c) DEFINITIONS.—

4               “(1) ENERGY CUSTOMER.—The term ‘energy  
5       customer’ means a residential customer or a small  
6       commercial customer that receives products or serv-  
7       ices directly or indirectly from a public utility or  
8       natural gas company under the jurisdiction of the  
9       Commission.

10              “(2) NATURAL GAS COMPANY.—The term ‘nat-  
11       ural gas company’ has the meaning given the term  
12       in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C.  
13       717a), as modified by section 601(a) of the Natural  
14       Gas Policy Act of 1978 (15 U.S.C. 3431(a)).

15              “(3) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Of-  
16       fice of Consumer Advocacy established under this  
17       section.

18              “(4) PUBLIC UTILITY.—The term ‘public util-  
19       ity’ has the meaning given the term in section  
20       201(e) of this Act.

21              “(5) SMALL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER.—The  
22       term ‘small commercial customer’ means a commer-  
23       cial customer that has a peak demand of not more  
24       than 1,000 kilowatts per hour.

1       “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary  
3 to carry out this section.

4       “(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section af-  
5 fects the rights or obligations of any State utility con-  
6 sumer advocate.”.

7       **TITLE II—ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
8               **Subtitle A—Building Energy**  
9                       **Efficiency Programs**

10       **SEC. 201. GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING**  
11                       **CODES.**

12       Section 304 of the Energy Conservation and Produc-  
13 tion Act (42 U.S.C. 6833) is amended to read as follows:

14       **“SEC. 304. GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDING**  
15                       **CODES.**

16       “(a) ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS.—

17               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
18 graph (2) or (3), the national building code energy  
19 efficiency target for the national average percentage  
20 improvement of a building’s energy performance  
21 when built to a code meeting the target shall be—

22                       “(A) effective on the date of enactment of  
23 the American Clean Energy and Security Act of  
24 2009, 30 percent reduction in energy use rel-