

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Chu and Acting Director Zients:

We are writing to request that your agencies quickly finalize your reviews of and publish energy efficiency standards for battery chargers and external power supplies.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (*Public Law 110-140*) requires that not later than July 1, 2011, the Secretary of Energy shall issue a rule that prescribes energy conservation standards for battery chargers or classes of battery chargers or determine that no energy conservation standard is technically feasible and economically justified. The Department of Energy prepared a proposed rule and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) acknowledged its receipt on July 19, 2011. But, as of this writing, the proposed rule remains under OMB review. The statutory deadline lapsed more than half a year ago, and not even the proposed rule has been published

Failure to complete these standards in a timely way has negative consequences for the public and for manufacturers. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act requires DOE to establish national standards that “achieve the maximum improvement in energy efficiency ...which the Secretary determines is technologically feasible and economically justified” 42 U.S.C 6295(o)(2)(A). EPCA standards generally preempt state standards, preventing a patchwork of varying state requirements. But, for battery chargers, we are already seeing the beginnings of state by state regulation with California finalizing its own battery charger energy-efficiency standard. For manufacturers, a single, uniform federal energy standard is preferable to a patchwork of 50 differing state standards, especially during these trying economic times. Further, when the effective dates of the standards are delayed, national energy, economic and environmental benefits are reduced. At the same time, manufacturers face continuing uncertainty about their regulatory environment, making product and investment planning more difficult.

We urge you to complete the battery charger standards rulemaking as expeditiously as possible, and would like to request a meeting to discuss this important matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Joseph McGuire  
President  
Association of Home Appliance  
Manufacturers



Steven M. Nadel  
Executive Director  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient  
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Evan R. Gaddis  
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Joseph Harding  
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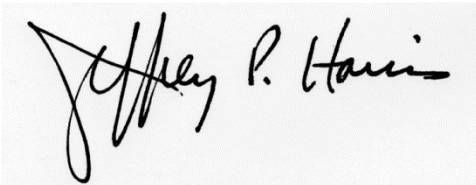
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Mel Hall-Crawford  
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Jeff Harris  
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Charlie Harak  
National Consumer Law Center on behalf of  
its low-income clients

Cc: Mr. Cass Sunstein