

February 1, 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 updated energy conservation standards for residential clothes washers and dishwashers.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared Direct Final Rules for new clothes washer and dishwasher standards in response to consensus recommendations submitted by our organizations and others in July 2010. These joint recommendations were the product of an historic agreement between representatives of manufacturers, consumer groups, environmental groups and energy and water efficiency advocates covering many of the major household appliances. The negotiations, conducted over many months, carefully balanced multiple factors such as compliance dates, consumer benefits, and stringency across many categories of products. We believe this negotiated rulemaking yielded recommendations that are superior to the outcomes that might have been achieved through a normal, contested rulemaking process.

We appreciate that DOE has already published final rules based on our joint recommendations for refrigerators, room air conditioners and clothes dryers. However, the updated standards for clothes washers, which include an updated test procedure, and dishwashers have been delayed.

- OMB acknowledged receipt of the clothes washer rule from DOE on September 23, but, as of this writing, the rule remains under OMB review. The statutory deadline for new clothes washer standards passed on December 31.
- For dishwashers, DOE's Regulatory Agenda indicates a February final rule publication date. However, OMB's website does not show that the rule has been received for review. Although there is no immediate statutory deadline for dishwashers, the appliance standards law requires DOE to respond to a consensus petition by either establishing the recommended standard or publishing a determination that it cannot. More than 18 months have passed since we submitted our joint agreement.

Failure to complete these standards in a timely way has negative consequences for the public and for manufacturers. If effective dates of the standards are delayed, energy, economic and

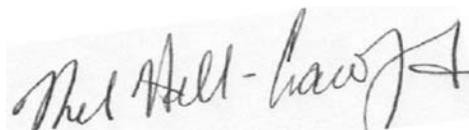
environmental benefits will be reduced. At the same time, manufacturers face continuing uncertainty about their regulatory environment, making product and investment planning more difficult.

We urge you to complete both of these new standards as expeditiously as possible, and would like to request a meeting to discuss this important matter at your earliest convenience.

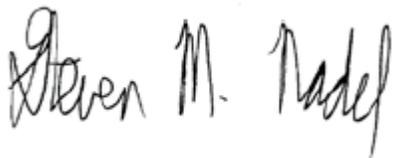
Respectfully,



Joseph McGuire  
President  
Association of Home Appliance  
Manufacturers



Mel Hall Crawford  
Energy Project Director  
Consumer Federation of America



Steven Nadel  
Executive Director  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient  
Economy



Charlie Harak  
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of  
its low-income client)



Kateri Callahan  
President  
Alliance to Save Energy



Tom Eckman  
Conservation Manager  
Northwest Power and Conservation Council



Katherine Kennedy  
Clean Energy Counsel  
Natural Resources Defense Council



Andrew deLaski  
Executive Director  
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

Cc: Mr. Cass Sunstein