

WILMES WINDOW

MANUFACTURING CO., INC.

PHONE (812) 367-1811

234 West 23rd Street
FERDINAND, INDIANA 47532

March 27, 2003

Mr. Richard H. Karney, P. E., Manager
Energy Star Program
Building Technologies Program
Department of Energy
Washington, D. C. 20685

Dear Mr. Karney,

This letter is in regards to a further proposal being presented for the Energy Star Program per the Department of Energy's letter dated February 11, 2003.

Wilmes Window Manufacturing Company, Inc., a fifty-five year old family owned business, located in Ferdinand, Indiana, of which I am proud to be president, appeals to you regarding DOE's February 11, 2003 proposed criteria change and the negative impact this voluntary rule will have on my family's business.

Wilmes Window Manufacturing Company, Inc. serves Southern Indiana, Southern Illinois, and West Central Kentucky through four factory outlets, employing approximately sixty employees.

Our cold mid-western winters necessitate energy efficient window systems to maximize heat retention "and" passive solar heat gain. DOE's proposed three-zone solar heat gain co-efficient map, will have a negative effect when considering the entire window system and its total energy performance.

We strongly urge you to support DOE's four-zone alternative criteria map for windows and doors. The four-zone plan allows for passive solar heating to be utilized during the cold clear winter months.

Also, the four-zone alternative criteria map for windows and doors brings Energy Star closer to the energy performance standards of the latest draft of the International Energy Conservation Code which is being submitted at the end of March. This code, as you know, is used by a wide variety of states and municipalities in developing their local standards. Our industry thinks it would be helpful to everyone if IECC and Energy Star performance criteria were in agreement.

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Again, I personally applaud the efforts of the Department of Energy and the goals of the Energy Star Program. We look forward to qualifying our window systems under the Energy Star Program, but I must express my concerns, regarding the three-zone map, and implore you to adopt the four-zone map. This winter Southern Indiana set a record for the highest electricity usage ever recorded in our history. A peak electrical usage normally occurs during the summer months with the previous record occurring in the months of August. The new record occurred approximately January 21, 2003, making this winter's usage the first winter demand to exceed a summer demand. Thank you sincerely for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Wilmes

Edward W. Wilmes
President
Wilmes Window Mfg. Co., Inc.