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April 10, 2018

Via E-Mail

Melissa Fiffer
Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliance Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

appliances@epa.gov

Re: ENERGY STAR Program Requirements; Product Specification for
Room Air Conditioners, Eligibility Criteria, Draft 1, Version 4.1

Dear Ms. Fiffer:

On behalf of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), I would like to provide our comments on the ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Room Air Conditioners, Eligibility Criteria, Draft 1, Version 4.1.

AHAM represents manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry. AHAM's membership includes over 150 companies throughout the world. In the U.S., AHAM members employ tens of thousands of people and produce more than 95% of the household appliances shipped for sale. The factory shipment value of these products is more than \$30 billion annually. The home appliance industry, through its products and innovation, is essential to U.S. consumer lifestyle, health, safety and convenience. Through its technology, employees and productivity, the industry contributes significantly to U.S. jobs and economic security. Home appliances also are a success story in terms of energy efficiency and environmental protection. New appliances often represent the most effective choice a consumer can make to reduce home energy use and costs.

AHAM supports EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) in their efforts to provide incentives to manufacturers, retailers, and consumers for energy efficiency improvement, as long as product performance can be maintained for the consumer. Because the appliance standards program is the foundation for the ENERGY STAR program, it is critical that all program elements are harmonized to reduce burden and confusion for manufacturers and, ultimately, consumers.

As AHAM has commented numerous times, EPA must ensure the ENERGY STAR program is based upon the foundation DOE lays in the appliance standards program, including product and other applicable definitions, test procedures, and sampling requirements. DOE conducts lengthy, thorough, and transparent rulemakings to set those definitions, test procedures, and sampling

requirements and the regulations are subject to notice and comment rulemaking. Thus we are glad to see that this proposed revision works to further refine EPA's alignment with DOE's already-existing regulations. EPA's citation of DOE's applicable definitions and other requirements is the only way for the two agencies setting energy-related criteria for home appliances to avoid confusion. EPA should not stray from determinations DOE has made through its lengthy rulemaking process, which has already gone through a rigorous and transparent analysis.

In the draft, EPA indicates that companies can use applicable test procedure waivers DOE grants for certain room air conditioner technologies. We note that this is the case for all product categories. When DOE grants a test procedure waiver, the company receiving that waiver is, in fact, obligated to use that waiver to demonstrate compliance with applicable energy conservation standards for the and to make all energy-related representations. *See* 10 C.F.R. 430.27 (requiring manufacturers of basic models subject to a waiver to comply with all other requirements of 10 C.F.R. Part 430 and Part 429). Thus, for consistency with the federal regulatory requirements, our understanding has always been that those waivers would also be used to demonstrate ENERGY STAR eligibility.

AHAM appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Room Air Conditioners, Eligibility Criteria, Draft 1, Version 4.1 and would be glad to further discuss these matters should you so request.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Cleary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Cleary
Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs