January 27, 2017,

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computers Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder,

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking your input as part of the early stages of a revision of the ENERGY STAR Computers specification. This letter and accompanying discussion guide highlight an initial list of priority areas for this specification revision, key questions for stakeholders, and next steps in the revision process. EPA looks forward to working with stakeholders to develop the Version 7.0 specification that will recognize efficiency gains in the computer market since the completion of the current ENERGY STAR requirements.

The following are EPA’s priorities for the Version 7.0 revision:

- Revise the energy requirements for all product types, including soliciting stakeholder feedback on the methodology used to determine the energy requirements.
- Introduce more aggressive power management and/or alternative low power mode requirements.
- Raise the internal power supply efficiency requirements.
- Evaluate the feasibility of an active state benchmark for Workstations based on the Linpack and SPECviewperf benchmark results collected in Version 6.0/6.1 certification.
- Consider scope amendments to add ultrathin clients, exclude small scale servers, and consider the classification of interactive displays.

EPA welcomes stakeholder suggestions on any other issues to be considered during the Version 7.0 specification revision process and in particular on those topics raised in the discussion guide. EPA is pleased to be collaborating with the European Commission on this specification development.

Further, EPA has been monitoring the development of two computer regulatory efforts, one led by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the other led by the California Energy Commission. EPA will continue to review the data and approaches from these processes during the development of the Version 7.0 specification.

Assembly of Energy Data

To assist EPA in determining ENERGY STAR energy efficiency requirements, manufacturers are invited to submit product information on non-certified computer models using the accompany data template posted with this letter. EPA is particularly interested in desktop data. A robust data set of both certified and non-certified product data will ensure that revised levels are reflective of the overall market conditions. If you wish to submit non-certified product data, please send completed data forms to computers@energystar.gov by February 27, 2017. A Draft 1, Version 7.0 specification release for computers is anticipated Q1 2017.

EPA will host a webinar to answer any questions on this discussion guide on February 9, 2017 from 2-4 PM Eastern Time. Please register here if you plan on attending. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to computers@energystar.gov no later than February 27, 2017. Specifications and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR website. To track EPA’s progress on this specification, please visit the product development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and navigate to “Computers.”
Please contact me at Fogle.Ryan@epa.gov or 202-343-9153 or John Clinger at John.Clinger@icfi.com or 215-967-9407 with questions or concerns. For any other computer related questions, please contact computers@energystar.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Fogle
EPA Manager, ENERGY STAR for IT and Data Center Products