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February 24, 2016

Via E-Mail

Katharine Kaplan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR Appliance Program

appliances@energystar.gov

Re: ENERGY STAR Program Requirements
Product Specification for Clothes Dryers, Proposed Version 1.1

Dear Ms. Kaplan:

On behalf of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), I would like to provide our comments on the ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Clothes Dryers, Proposed Version 1.1.

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. EPA proposes to add a definition to the clothes dryer specification for "clothes dryer with supplementary drying system." AHAM is not commenting at this time on the substance of the proposed definition or the proposal to add it to the specification. **But AHAM opposes EPA's proposal to revise the clothes dryer specification during a time of transition within the administration.**

The President has made clear his intent that executive agencies, including EPA and DOE, refrain from acting until a department or agency head appointed or designated by the President (or their designee) reviews and approves the action. *See, e.g., Memorandum for the Heads of Executive*

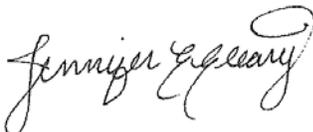
Departments and Agencies from Reince Priebus to Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies (Jan. 20, 2017). AHAM recognizes that this memorandum does not freeze all agency action, but rather subjects regulatory action to review by political appointees. And AHAM is not asking EPA to freeze its activity *per se*, but rather is seeking to ensure that an EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation and a DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy appointed by the President have the opportunity to provide direction and review the proposed revision to the specification (or designate someone to do such a review). The ENERGY STAR program is voluntary only in theory—in practice, it has become mandatory in the marketplace. Thus, the implications of agency action on policy are similar to those an agency makes when it regulates a product.

Moreover, and perhaps more importantly, AHAM supports moving the management of the ENERGY STAR program for major appliances back to DOE, which formerly managed them. DOE's regulations are the foundation of the ENERGY STAR program for home appliances. In developing those regulations, DOE undergoes a lengthy and thorough analysis regarding the technical and economic justification for energy conservation standards and the proper method for testing products to determine compliance with those standards. Thus, DOE develops product expertise as the agency determines whether revised minimum standards are appropriate and to what degree. There are efficiencies in having one Federal agency manage energy efficiency programs for home appliances—bifurcation of responsibilities has not proven effective or efficient for our product categories. It is critical that the new EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation and a DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy have the opportunity to assess our proposal before finalizing specifications for home appliances.

Accordingly, AHAM cannot support revision of the clothes dryer ENERGY STAR specification until the new EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation and a DOE Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy are in place and have the opportunity to assess AHAM's proposal to move the ENERGY STAR program for home appliances back to DOE.

AHAM appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Clothes Dryers, Proposed Version 1.1, and would be glad to further discuss these matters should you so request. We expect and understand that the proposal we raise in these comments is significant and will require further discussion between AHAM, EPA, and DOE once the proper people are in place to address the proposal.

Best Regards,



Jennifer Cleary
Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs