

June 12, 2023

To whom it may concern:

The Florida Natural Gas Association is comprised of concerned citizens and stakeholders invested in promoting energy efficiency. We are writing today to ask the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reconsider its recent proposal to omit gas furnaces from the ENERGY STAR program.

While the EPA has been under pressure from certain industry groups to make this change, doing so would be a terrible mistake that would undermine the important work that ENERGY STAR has done to promote energy-efficient appliances and reduce emissions.

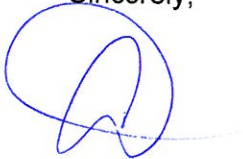
As residents of Florida, we have seen firsthand the positive impact that ENERGY STAR has had on our state's utilities and the environment. For decades, our utilities have been strong advocates for ENERGY STAR, and have worked tirelessly to promote the label to encourage consumers to select higher-efficiency appliances like furnaces and water heaters.

Unfortunately, this proposed change would take away an important incentive for consumers to choose more energy-efficient gas furnaces and will negatively affect utility energy conservation programs that rely on ENERGY STAR for program eligibility requirements.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the impact that this proposed change would have on our industry. Natural gas is a critical source of energy that can play a major role in reducing emissions and removing gas furnaces from the ENERGY STAR program would be a step in the wrong direction.

In light of these concerns, we urge the EPA to withdraw its proposal to omit gas furnaces from the ENERGY STAR program. This would demonstrate a commitment to promoting energy efficiency and reducing emissions. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Dale Calhoun
Executive Director
Florida Natural Gas Association