

Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency

April 30, 2010

Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Version 1.0, Draft 1, ENERGY STAR® Program Requirements for
Residential Climate Controls

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing to express our support for the recently proposed Draft 1 of the Energy Star® Program Requirements for Residential Climate Controls. We believe that the proposed specification, and specifically the communication capabilities enabled by the specification, will drive both significant innovation and tremendous energy savings and GHG reductions.

We have read about (and experienced) the difficulties with traditional programmable thermostats, and understand that the EPA withdrew its previous specification because existing programmable thermostats did not do enough to reduce real-world energy use. We know that the energy wasted by those thermostats costs American homeowners billions of dollars a year, and leads to hundreds of millions of tons in unnecessary emissions of GHG.

We think that the proposed specification for residential climate controls will lead to significant reductions in energy use, and thus in the environmental impact of heating and cooling a large percentage of the 100 million-plus American homes. More specifically, we agree with the EPA that enabling the simple communications capabilities you have specified will, as the draft standards suggest, “enable groundbreaking applications that take automatic action to increase energy efficiency, decrease energy expense and enable early detection of HVAC or building envelope faults and deficiencies.” The proposed specification will enable the use of smart meters and energy information displays as tools to both save energy and save consumers real money. These communications specification are also likely to be the key to empowering millions of consumers to manage their energy use through tools they already use, like the Internet and smart phones.

We therefore urge you to implement the communications provisions of the Program Requirements substantially as written.

Respectfully,

Aztech Associates, Inc.

Consert, Inc.

EcoFactor, Inc.

Intel Corporation

Golden Power Manufacturing Ltd.

Radio Thermostat Company of America

U-SNAP Alliance

ZigBee Alliance