

January 25, 2008

Richard Karney  
Energy Star Products Manager  
U. S. Department of Energy

In response to your letter of January 9, we are writing to convey the support of the Steering Committee for Water Efficiency Products for the two-phase revision proposed for Energy Star criteria for residential and commercial clothes washers. The first revision, effective July 1, 2009, is the widely supported product of negotiations between efficiency advocates and appliance manufacturers announced in early 2007. The second revision, effective January 1, 2011, is equal to tier 2 established by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency.

By way of information, over 75% of the residential clothes washers incentivized by the City of Seattle's rebate program in 2007 (nearly 7,000 units) met or bettered the proposed Energy Star phase 2 level. Similarly, virtually all of the washers incentivized by the San Diego County Water Authority in both 2006 and 2007 (over 8,000 and 8,700 units, respectively) met or bettered the phase 2 water factor, 6.0. This is good evidence that both the demand for, and the supply of, high efficiency washers is developing rapidly. We anticipate that the criteria proposed for both phase 1 and phase 2 will be well received by Energy Star partners and consumers alike, and we urge their adoption.

Al Dietemann  
Rob Zimmerman  
Co-Chairs  
Steering Committee for Water Efficient Products  
Washington, DC