



May 17, 2023

Dr. Carl Shapiro  
 U.S. Department of Energy  
 Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
 Building Technologies Office, EE-5B  
 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Shapiro:

We are writing in support of the U.S. Department of Energy's proposed standards for residential clothes washers. The proposed rule would ensure that manufacturers include top-performing technologies in all of their models, which would reduce consumers' utility bills while cutting water waste and planet-warming emissions. We strongly support the proposed standards and urge DOE to promptly publish a final rule.

**DOE has not updated the federal efficiency standards for residential clothes washers in over a decade.** Top-loaders with old-fashioned agitators use more energy, and many of these outdated models do not spin out rinse-water as thoroughly, requiring a clothes dryer to run longer and use more energy. The proposed standards would ensure that all models take advantage of this and other proven efficiency improvements to reduce energy and water waste.

**DOE's proposed standards would save consumers money – and renters in particular would benefit.** The Department estimates that the proposed standards would save U.S. consumers up to \$14.5 billion over 30 years of sales. Stronger standards are particularly important for renters since they rarely get to choose their own clothes washers but often are responsible for paying the utility bills. Renters are disproportionately low-income households and are much more likely to have a top-loading model according to DOE; top-loaders are generally less efficient than front-loading washers. The proposed standards would help ensure that landlords buy efficient washers for their rental units, helping to reduce the strain on households with needlessly high utility bills.

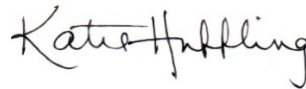
**Improved clothes washer efficiency would lead to environmental and health benefits.** Washers account for 16% of households' indoor water use, and the proposed standards would save 2.5 trillion gallons of water, which is equivalent to the amount of water in nearly 4 million Olympic-sized swimming pools. These standards would significantly reduce the amount of energy—electricity or gas—used by water heaters and clothes dryers. DOE estimates the standards would cut 53 million metric tons of needless carbon dioxide emissions over 30 years of sales and reduce NOx emissions by 92.39 thousand tons, while generating a projected \$4.57 billion in health benefits from reduced NOx and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Cutting these pollutants helps to avoid a range of public health harms, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

If finalized, the proposed standards for residential clothes washers will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and water waste, while simultaneously easing utility bill burdens on American consumers. We urge the Department to swiftly finalize this strong proposed rule.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director  
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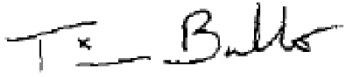
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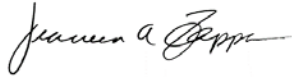
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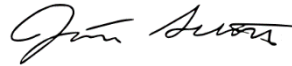
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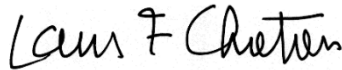
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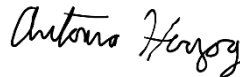
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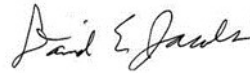
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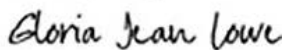
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We Want Green, Too