



October 13, 2020

The Honorable Daniel R. Simmons
 Assistant Secretary
 Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
 U.S. Department of Energy
 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
 Washington, DC 20585-0121

Appliance and Equipment Standards Program
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Building Technologies Office
 950 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Suite 600
 Washington, DC, 20024.

RE: COMMENTS ON DOCKET ID NO. EERE-2020-BT-STD-0001 ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR CLOTHES WASHERS AND CLOTHES DRYERS

Dear Assistant Secretary Simmons:

The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and the undersigned 58 organizations write to express our opposition to the proposed creation of two new product categories for clothes washers with

normal run times of 30 and 45 minutes. We view this proposed rulemaking as both unnecessary and harmful for the reasons outlined below.

1. The proposed rulemaking is not needed. The creation of two new clothes washer categories, simply for the purpose of having shorter normal cycle run times, implies that there is an actual need for market differentiation in the area of run times -- and that the consumer wants a product that isn't already available. But the proposed rulemaking does not present any documentation of this need. Instead, the data presented in EERE-2020-BT-STD-0001 actually show that there already are a number of clothes washers on the market today that meet the normal cycle run time requirements AND that meet current water and energy standards. These products already exist, and if they are in high demand, market forces will develop more machines to meet these normal cycle criteria.
2. The product categories should not be created without accompanying water and energy efficiency standards. The DOE data show that there are clothes washers available today that meet the normal runtime requirements proposed for the new categories; these clothes washers already meet current water and energy standards, standards which have helped Americans save billions of dollars on their water and energy bills over the past 25 years. DOE has not produced any analysis to document the harmful impact on the nation's water and energy resources that these new product categories would have if adopted without accompanying water and energy efficiency standards.
3. The proposed rulemaking will adversely affect water use in particular, and this was not analyzed. 40 of the 50 US states are already confronting serious drinking water shortages, as documented in a US Government Accountability Office Report.¹ A number of southwestern states are also confronting a climate-change induced mega-drought² which is further reducing available water supplies. The 2016 Residential End Uses of Water study found that adoption of higher efficiency residential clothes washers was the most in effective indoor water efficiency measure for reducing per capita use over the past 15 years.³ Losing these critical water savings that have been achieved would negatively impact American water supply providers, and the proposed rulemaking did not contain any analysis of this harmful impact.
4. Without accompanying water and energy efficiency standards, the proposed rulemaking represents illegal backsliding. Introducing new categories of clothes washers without any accompanying energy or water efficiency standards would be an illegal step backward on water and energy efficiency, violating DOE's own anti-backsliding provisions contained in statute.⁴ These provisions were put in place to ensure that water and energy efficiency gains

¹ Freshwater Supply Concerns Continue, and Uncertainties Complicate Planning." US Government Accountability Office Report, May, 2014 - www.gao.gov/assets/670/663343.pdf

² https://weather.com/news/climate/news/2020-04-16-climate-change-stoking-long-term-megadrought-western-us?cm_ver=PS_GGL_DSA_09162019_1&par=MK_GGL&gclid=CjwKCAjw4rf6BRAvEiwAn2Q76jLyNknHWDhkp5XABdHvCMqIVjpJPVlyMfjxSwTQiU0cr2WmyrfRYhoCYPoQAvD_BwE

³ DeOreo, W., P.Mayer, et. al. 2016. Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2. Water Research Foundation. Denver, CO.

⁴ 42 U.S.C. 6295(o)(1) (commonly referred to as the "anti-backsliding provision") prohibits DOE from prescribing a standard that increases the maximum allowable energy use of a covered product.

remain and are not degraded once adopted. The proposal to create these two new clothes washer categories without any water and energy efficiency standards would clearly represent backsliding in the area of residential clothes washers.

The water and energy efficiency of modern clothes washers has been a tremendous success story. Efficient clothes washers have helped reduce water use by an average of 5.4 gallons per person per day⁵, which across 328 million Americans can total annual savings of more than 640 billion gallons. Clothes washers frequently use hot water as part of the cycle, and reductions in hot water use results in corresponding energy reductions. Water and energy providers are now planning on these reductions into the future to extend supplies and serve new customers. The consequences of illegal backsliding on clothes washer efficiency could negatively impact American utilities and consumers for years.

5. Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Are Essential for All Clothes Washer Categories. All clothes washers today are subject to efficiency standards. Energy and water efficiency standards for appliances have provided tremendous benefits for American consumers, most notably a significant reduction in water and energy use achieved as market transformation to more efficient machines has occurred over the past 25 years.⁶ These standards benefit both American consumers and manufacturers by creating a level, well-understood playing field. American companies have invested heavily in creating products that meet today's water and energy efficiency standards. We firmly believe that DOE should not introduce new product categories without the necessary efficiency standards in place.

AWE and the undersigned organizations strongly urge DOE to reject this rulemaking proposal to create new categories of clothes washers without energy or water efficiency standards. This would be an illegal and completely unnecessary step backwards that will have numerous negative consequences for water providers and consumers alike.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Water Efficiency
Chicago, Illinois

Amy Vickers and Associates
Amherst, MA

Arizona Municipal Water Users Association
Phoenix, AZ

Association of California Water Agencies
Sacramento, CA

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
Washington, DC

Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency
San Mateo, CA

California Water Efficiency Partnership
Sacramento, CA

California Water Service Company
Torrance, CA

⁵ DeOreo, IBID

⁶ DeOreo, IBID

Cascade Water Alliance Bellevue, WA	Connecticut Water Company Clinton, CT	Maureen Erbeznik & Associates Los Angeles, CA
Center for Water-Energy Efficiency, University of California, Davis Davis, CA	Denver Water Denver, CO	Medford Water Commission Medford, OR
Citizens Water Advocacy Group Prescott, AZ	East Bay Municipal Utility District Oakland, CA	Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Atlanta, GA
City of Big Bear Lake Big Bear Lake, CA	Eastern Municipal Water District Perris, CA	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Los Angeles, CA
City of Charlottesville Charlottesville, VA	EcoSystems, LLC Miami, FL	
City of Durham Durham, NC	Electric & Gas Industries Association Sacramento, CA	Monterey Peninsula WMD Monterey, CA
City of Flagstaff Flagstaff, AZ	Foothill MWD La Canada Flintridge, CA	Municipal Water District of Orange County Fountain Valley, CA
City of Hays Hays, KS	Green Builder Coalition Glen Carbon, IL	National Wildlife Federation Merrifield, VA
City of Mesa Mesa, AZ	Jurupa Community Services District Jurupa Valley, CA	Orange Water and Sewer Authority Carrboro, NC
City of Round Rock Round Rock, TX	Las Vegas Valley Water District Las Vegas, NV	Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors – National Association Falls Church, VA
City of Sacramento Sacramento, CA	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Los Angeles, CA	Regional Water Authority Sacramento, CA
City of Santa Barbara Santa Barbara, CA		
City of Surprise Surprise, AZ	Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department Miami, FL	Sacramento Suburban Water District Sacramento, CA
City of Westminster Westminster, CO		

San Antonio Water System
San Antonio, TX

Southern Nevada Water
Authority
Las Vegas, NV

Sonoma Water
Santa Rosa, CA

Texas Water Foundation
Austin, TX

Tucson Water
Tucson, AZ

Turfgrass Water
Conservation Alliance
Albany, OR

Upper San Gabriel Valley
MWD
Monrovia, CA

Valley Water
San Jose, CA

Walnut Valley Water
District
Walnut, CA

Water Demand
Management
Boulder, CO

Water Supply Citizens
Advisory Committee
Belchertown, MA

Water Use it Wisely
Phoenix, AZ

WaterNow Alliance
San Francisco, CA

Whirlpool Corporation
Benton Harbor, MI