

September 28, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

Thank you for your continued work to advance energy efficiency standards that cut energy bills for consumers, enhance American energy security, and reduce harmful pollution. We write to you in support of the proposed consumer water heater efficiency standards, which are critical to help lessen energy burdens on American families, especially low- and moderate-income households, enhance the nation's energy security, and tackle the climate crisis.

Recent polling conducted by Morning Consult demonstrates that there is robust bipartisan support for energy efficiency appliance standards. Three in five adults support strengthened standards.¹

Water heaters are the second-largest energy user in most households, yet most models—both electric and gas—use inefficient technologies, resulting in higher energy bills and emissions.² The proposed standards, which reflect a joint recommendation from major water heater manufacturers and energy efficiency advocates, would save U.S. consumers cumulatively \$198 billion and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 501 million metric tons. This proposal, effective in 2029, would shift most new electric water heaters to heat pump technology, which uses half the energy to heat the same amount of water to the same temperature as conventional electric resistance water heaters. A typical household purchasing a new electric water heater would see nearly \$200 in annual electricity bill savings. Rebates and tax incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act would mean that some consumers would see even quicker paybacks. Households purchasing new gas storage and gas tankless water heaters would save \$17 and \$31 annually with the proposed standards as manufacturers incorporate readily available energy-saving technologies into their product lines to meet the standards.

The standards would be especially beneficial for renters, who rarely get to choose their own water heater. And they would benefit low-income households, who pay a larger share of their income on utility bills than wealthier households do.³

¹ Martinez, Julia. "Attitudes on Natural Gas Bans Remain Stable." Morning Consult Pro, April 26, 2023. <https://pro.morningconsult.com/instant-intel/natural-gas-bans-energy-efficiency>.

² U.S. Energy Information Administration. June 2023.

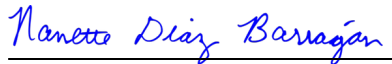
<https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/data/2020/c&e/pdf/ce3.1.pdf>.


³ Dreihobl, A., L. Ross, and R. Ayala. 2020. *How High Are Household Energy Burdens?* Washington, DC: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.


These standards would also bolster energy security. According to federal data from the Energy Information Administration, electric resistance water heaters draw on average about a quarter of a home's total electricity use.⁴ By shifting most of the electric water heater market to heat pump water heaters, the proposed standards would provide significant reductions in electricity demand, reducing stresses on electric grid infrastructure.


We appreciate your work to catch up on this overdue appliance standard and deliver much-needed pocketbook savings for U.S. households. We again thank you for your work on this issue and urge you to swiftly complete a final standard.

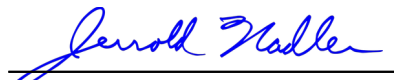
Sincerely,

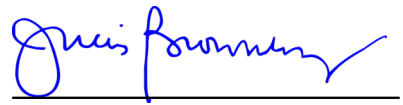

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⁴ U.S. Energy Information Administration. December 2018. 2015 RECS Survey Data
<https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/data/2015/index.php?view=microdata>).

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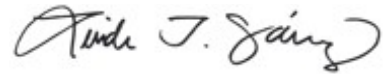
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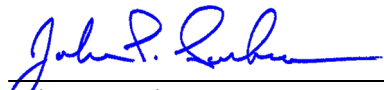
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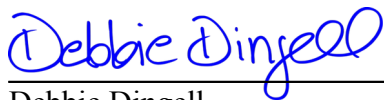
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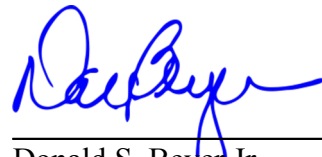
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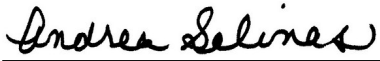
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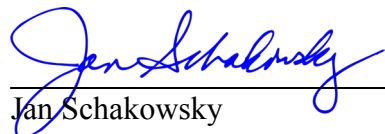
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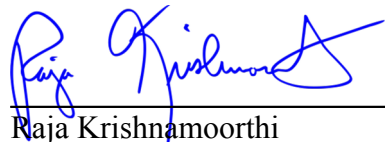
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