



**PACIFIC
INSTITUTE**

Research for People and the Planet

#33

April 3, 2006

Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Support for Petition to Exempt From Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Pacific Institute, we strongly urge you to approve the Petition to Exempt from Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers. Savings from this measure will bring important social, economic, and environmental benefits to the state and the country. We will save water, energy, money, pollution, and perhaps, the competitiveness of our appliance manufacturers.

Water and energy uses are closely linked. The water sector consumes a tremendous amount of energy to capture, treat, transport, and use water. This is particularly true in California, where water supplies and population centers are separated by hundreds of miles and a tremendous amount of infrastructure is required to move water from where it is available to where it is needed. As a result, California's water-related energy consumption accounts for roughly 19 percent of all electricity used in California, approximately 32 percent of all natural gas and 88 million gallons of diesel fuel. In addition, the State Water Project is currently the single largest energy user in the State.

California is one of the fastest growing states in the nation. It also has an economy that is dependent upon an adequate and reliable water supply. As California's population and economy grow, pressures on our water and energy resources will increase. Our recent report, "California Water 2030: An Efficient Future," suggests that currently available water-efficient technologies and practices, however, can reduce California's water use 20 percent below 2000 levels by 2030. We can achieve this future by taking proactive steps to improve our water efficiency now.

A residential clothes washer water-efficiency standard plays an important role in working towards an efficient future. Clothes washers use substantial amounts of water, accounting for nearly 14 percent of indoor water use and nearly five percent of total household water use in California. Currently available technologies, however, can drastically reduce water use. A high-efficiency washer, for example, uses over 50 percent less water than a traditional machine.

The link between water and energy use indicates that water use reductions will also result in a reduction in energy consumption. A fully implemented 8.5 water factor standard will save as much energy as the annual usage for approximately 50,000 California homes, and the 6.0 water factor will save the equivalent annual energy use of approximately 85,000 California homes. As the population increases, water and energy savings from high-efficiency washers will also increase.

Water-efficiency standards are among the most effective ways to promote full penetration of water-efficient residential clothes washers. The water saved is of tremendous value to the State of California. Some of the water saved could be rededicated to agricultural production; support new urban and industrial activities and jobs; and restore California's stressed rivers, groundwater aquifers, and wetlands.

We urge you to approve the Petition to Exempt From Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Gleick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Peter H. Gleick, President