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To: california.petition@ee.doe.gov
cc: "Brun, Philip" <pbrun@cityofnapa.org>
Subject: California Preemption Exemption Petition
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Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

**Subject: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Docket No. EE-RM-PET-100
Support for Petition to Exempt From Preemption California's Water
Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the City of Napa Water Division, we strongly urge you to approve the Petition to Exempt From Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers.

California's water use is intricately linked to high energy costs and consumption. As the nation's largest water user with a vast water transportation infrastructure, California's water systems are uniquely energy-intensive due to pumping requirements to deliver volumes of water long distances, across mountain ranges, and over high elevations. The City of Napa is partially dependent on the State Water Project, the nation's largest state-built water conveyance system of reservoirs, lakes, power plants, pump stations, canals, tunnels, and a 444 mile-long aqueduct. The State Water Project is the largest single user of electricity in California. The amount of energy required to support the state's water delivery system and the energy requirements associated with treating, pumping, and delivering water from supply sources to population centers is of increasing concern. It is clear that more efficient water use will substantially reduce energy costs and use.

Due to the state's unique water and energy circumstances, California must pursue highly efficient and cost-effective energy and water conservation strategies and solutions. In 2002, the California State Legislature declared that "a significant portion of

urban water demand in the state is for residential clothes washers” and that “water conservation is a proven tool that will make the most effective use of the state’s limited supply, and will conserve energy.” As a result of these declarations, the California Energy Commission adopted water efficiency standards for residential clothes washers to address the unique and compelling interests and needs of California.

Implementation of state water efficiency standards will result in significant reduction in water use and cost to pump, treat, and provide reliable supplies while also reducing energy consumption and costs required to maintain and operate water delivery systems and wastewater treatment facilities. The amount of energy that will be conserved as a result of water efficiency standards will be significant. A fully implemented 8.5 water factor standard will save as much energy as the annual usage for approximately 50,000 California homes. The 6.0 water factor will save the annual energy use of approximately 85,000 California homes, equivalent to four cities the size of Napa.

Along with increased consumer energy and water cost savings, these water efficiency standards would not burden the clothes washer industry. Instead, these standards would positively impact the manufacturing, marketing, distribution, sale, and servicing of these high-efficiency washers. Today, most appliance manufacturers, large and small, already produce high-efficiency washer models that comply with the proposed standards. While 30 percent of California’s washer sales already comply with the 8.5 standard, 20 percent of sales already comply with the more stringent 6.0 standard. Various rebate incentive and educational programs throughout the state are also in place to increase the sale of these washers. The City of Napa has funded its local rebate program for the past two years. However, if provided this preemptive waiver, California can achieve a 100 percent market share for high-efficiency washers and increase the sales competition and gross revenue of the clothes washer industry.

As California uses more water than any state, the City of Napa supports a statewide residential clothes washer water efficiency standard of 8.5 effective January 1, 2007 followed by a 6.0 standard effective January 1, 2010 to conserve and manage supplies for a growing population. Implementation of these standards will create tremendous water and energy savings for the region while supporting legal obligations to reduce use of imported water deliveries. It is crucial that California carry out these water efficiency standards and responsibly reduce its dependence on overly tapped and energy-intensive regional and imported water supplies. Water efficiency standards for residential clothes washers will help California achieve this goal.

We sincerely hope you will approve the Petition to Exempt From Preemption California’s Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers. It is critical to the state’s economy and the quality of life for populations that will make California their home for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Phil Brun

General Manager, Water Division
City of Napa