

From: Marianne DiMascio [mailto:mdimascio@standardsasap.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 10:38 AM
To: MAExemptPetition
Cc: Edwards, Brenda
Subject: Fwd: Massachusetts Furnace Petition: EERE-BT-PET-0024

Resending; had the wrong address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marianne DiMascio** <mdimascio@standardsasap.org>
Date: Thu, Mar 25, 2010 at 10:26 AM
Subject: Massachusetts Furnace Petition: EERE-BT-PET-0024
To: MAExemption@ee.doe.gov
Cc: Brenda Edwards <brenda.edwards@ee.doe.gov>

Dear Ms. Edwards,

Please accept the attached comments for the furnace petition on behalf of Massachusetts consumer groups.

Thank you.

Marianne DiMascio
Appliance Standards Awareness Project
781-293-6309
www.standardsasap.org

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Ms. Brenda Edwards
United States Department of Energy
Building Technologies Program
Mailstop EE-2J
Room 1J-018
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

March 25, 2010

Re: Petition of Massachusetts, Furnace Efficiency Standard
EERE-BT-PET-0024

Dear Ms. Edwards:

As consumer advocates, we are writing in support of Massachusetts' Petition to Exempt from Federal Preemption Massachusetts' 90% Annual Fuel Efficiency Standard for Non-weatherized Gas Furnaces, dated October 1, 2009. Exempting Massachusetts from the federal furnace standard and allowing the state to enact the more efficient standard will provide economic and public health benefits to consumers throughout the state.

We believe that setting aggressive appliance standards, such as the one presented in the Petition, is integral to reducing energy consumption, especially in Massachusetts, where "unusual and compelling" circumstances related to energy exist. Massachusetts residents are burdened by some of the highest energy costs in the nation. In addition, the number of "heating degree days" in Massachusetts greatly exceeds the national average. This combination of high energy prices plus long cold winters results in Massachusetts residents needing to spend more on energy than the average U.S. resident. Moreover, the unusually high number of renters in Massachusetts means that a greater number of Massachusetts residents are not in the position to choose the efficiency of the furnace used to heat their homes.

Greenhouse gas ("GHG") reduction and energy efficiency goals expressed in recently enacted Massachusetts legislation—the Global Warming Solutions Act ("GWSA"), 2008 Mass. Acts Ch. 298, and the Green Communities Act ("GCA"), 2008 Mass. Acts Ch. 169—reflect these realities. The GWSA requires the Commonwealth to reduce GHG emissions by 80% (from 1990 levels) by 2050, and to set interim GHG emission limits for 2020, 2030, and 2040. Energy efficiency goals set forth in the GCA include reducing fossil fuel use in buildings by 10% (from 2007 levels) by increasing the efficiency of both equipment (e.g. appliances) and the building envelope, and meeting at least 25% of the Commonwealth's electric load through energy efficiency and other demand-reduction measures.

Implementation of product and appliance standards is integral to Massachusetts achieving these goals, and is an effective, least-cost tool for reducing energy use and GHG emissions. If granted, the 90% AFUE standard would greatly reduce energy use, costs, and GHG emissions. As

explained in the Petition, implementing the standard would, between 2013 and 2030, save the state approximately 19.4 million therms in terms of gas usage and \$144 million in heating costs, and reduce GHG emissions by approximately 100,000 metric tons over the same time period. The average household buying a 90% AFUE furnace would see savings of approximately \$3,600 over the life of the furnace—approximately \$180 in annual fuel costs.

There is a separate Agreement¹ among various industry groups (American Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute and others) and various energy efficiency advocacy groups (American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and others) which urges DOE to adopt the 90% AFUE standard in many states. But there is no deadline by which DOE must act on this voluntary agreement. We therefore urge you to approve the Massachusetts petition by the October 2010 deadline for acting on the Massachusetts petition, if not sooner.

Implementing the 90% AFUE standard is integral to Massachusetts meeting its GHG reduction goals and energy use priorities, will save money for Massachusetts citizens, and will serve as a model for other states and the nation as a whole. We strongly urge you to grant the Commonwealth's petition.

Sincerely,

Paul Schrader, Executive Director
Consumer Assistance Council

Paul Schlaver, President
Massachusetts Consumers' Council

Jeanne Foy, Secretary
Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition

Janet Domenitz, Executive Director
MASSPIRG

¹ "Agreement on Legislative and Regulatory Strategy for Amending Federal Energy Efficiency Standards, Test Procedures, Metrics and Building Code Provisions for Residential Central Air Conditioners, Heat Pumps, Weatherized and Non-Weatherized Furnaces and Related Matters, October 13, 2009," available at: <http://www.standardsasap.org/documents/Furnace-ACAgreement.pdf>.