

October 26, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Chu and Administrator Jackson:

It was reported this week that many appliances boasting the Energy Star designation may not actually meet required specifications for energy efficiency. According to the Inspector General of the Department of Energy (DOE), manufacturers could be putting the stickers on unqualified products, and the inspector general at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said that Energy Star ratings for products overseen by EPA were not accurate or verifiable.

Many consumers purchase energy efficient appliances to save money on utility bills and reduce their environmental footprint. The integrity of the Energy Star designation is critical both to protect consumers from paying a premium on an appliance that will not deliver efficiency savings and to ensure that the Energy Star program actually succeeds in its important mission of reducing energy consumption through efficiency.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) set aside \$300 million for a “cash for appliances” program offering rebates on purchases of many home appliances certified under Energy Star. This stimulus program is important to help families save money through energy efficiency, create jobs, and improve the economy. However, we should be wary of committing taxpayer money to a program that may not accomplish its goals of promoting energy efficiency.

As you administer the “cash for appliances” program, you should work to protect consumers already struggling in a tough economy, protect the integrity of the Energy Star program, and prevent taxpayer money from being spent on an energy efficiency program that may not actually conserve energy. To this end, we urge you to work with Congress and industry to ensure that consumers have accurate information about products claiming an Energy Star designation when shopping for appliances this holiday season.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**Harry Teague, Member of Congress**  
Thomas Perriello, Member of Congress  
**Ben Ray Lujan, Member of Congress**  
Judy Chu, Member of Congress  
Melissa Bean, Member of Congress  
Silvestre Reyes, Member of Congress

Dan Boren, Member of Congress  
Bob Filner, Member of Congress  
Deborah Halvorson, Member of Congress  
Nita Lowey, Member of Congress  
Mary Jo Kilroy, Member of Congress  
Gabrielle Giffords, Member of Congress  
Eric Massa, Member of Congress  
Ciro Rodriguez, Member of Congress  
Chellie Pingree, Member of Congress  
Jim Matheson, Member of Congress  
Michael McMahon, Member of Congress  
Mike Quigley, Member of Congress  
**Martin Heinrich, Member of Congress**  
Marcia Fudge, Member of Congress  
Walt Minnick, Member of Congress  
Bruce Braley, Member of Congress  
Paul Hodes, Member of Congress  
John Hall, Member of Congress  
Larry Kissell, Member of Congress  
Solomon Ortiz, Member of Congress  
Betsy Markey, Member of Congress  
John Boccieri, Member of Congress  
Kathleen Dahlkemper, Member of Congress  
Brian Higgins, Member of Congress  
Glenn Nye, Member of Congress