

June 4, 2009

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

Re: Energy Conservation Standard Rulemaking for Lighting Products  
Docket # EE-2006-STD-0131; RIN 1904-AA92

Dear Secretary Chu:

We, the undersigned consumer organizations, are writing to ask the Department of Energy to substantially strengthen the efficiency standards in the lighting rulemaking: Fluorescent and Incandescent Lamps Rulemaking (Docket # 2006-STD-0131). It is significant to point out that this rule has the potential to deliver more energy and cost savings than any other appliance standard ever established by the Department and thus could greatly benefit consumers as well as the environment.

The new standards will cover fluorescent tube lamps, the four- and eight-foot light bulbs found in homes and offices throughout the country, and incandescent reflector lamps—the popular cone-shaped light bulbs used in “recessed can” light fixtures and track lighting. We understand that more than 500 million fluorescent tube lamps and 265 million incandescent reflector lamps are sold annually in the U.S. and that new standards for these products have the potential to reduce electricity demand by 50 billion kilowatt hours by 2020 and could save consumers up to \$70 billion in energy costs over 30 years. We support the option of adopting a higher standard level for fluorescent tube lighting while making allowances for the phased out T12 lamp to be used in residential settings. This option would benefit consumers and still achieve considerable energy efficiency gains.

In order to realize a greater potential for energy savings, it will be important to address the loophole in the reflector lamp rule proposed by the previous administration that would have exempted about 40% of residential sales. Overall, a more stringent lighting standard means lower energy bills for consumers and businesses and lower energy demand which helps to keep rates from rising.

Mr. Secretary, we understand the Department will be issuing a final rule at the end of June. We urge that it be a strong standard that will provide consumers with substantial energy and overall cost savings while benefitting the environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mel Hall-Crawford  
Consumer Federation of America

Linda Sherry  
Consumer Action

Jeff Bernstein  
USPIRG

Phyllis Rowe  
Arizona Consumers Council

Diane Brown  
Arizona PIRG

Pedro Morillas  
CALPIRG

Dan McCurry  
Chicago Consumers Council

Paul Schrader  
Consumer Assistance Council of Cape Cod

Walter Dartland  
Consumer Federation of the Southeast

Bill Newton  
Florida Consumers Action Network

Paul Schlaver  
Massachusetts Consumers Council

Charles Harak, Esq.  
National Consumer Law Center  
On behalf of its low income consumers

Irene Leech  
Virginia Citizens Consumers Council