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March 31, 2006

Tim Anderson
Sonoma County Water Agency

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

RE: Petition To Exempt From Preemption, California's Water Efficiency Standards For Residential Clothes Washers **DOCKET #EE-RM-PET-100**

Dear Secretary Bodman:

We at the Sonoma County Water Agency strongly urge your agency to approve the Petition to Exempt from Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers. Implementation of the new California standards for residential clothes washers will allow the state to better maximize beneficial use of both water and energy resources in our state.

As you know, both water supply and electric power are critical resources for California's economy and the 35 million people who live here. The growing population and the state's location in a largely semi-arid region necessitate a higher standard of efficiency than may be required in other states. California's residential clothes washer standards will save 204,387 acre-feet of water per year using technology that has been well-received by the public. Some 30% of current sales already comply with the 8.5 water factor standard.

Efficient washers are only one of many technologies currently being used to conserve water and maximize beneficial use of the resource. We implement 14 best management practices for water conservation in our area and are currently evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a number of advanced, tier 2, conservation technologies. However, the efficient washing machines are one of the most effective water saving methods available to us and strongly support implementation of the new standards for these devices in California.

I urge you to accept California's petition to allow California to exempt from preemption its water efficiency standards for residential clothes washers. Please grant the preemption necessary for California to secure a safe and reliable water supply for the state.

Sincerely,

Tim D. Anderson
Government Affairs Coordinator

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