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#63

March 28, 2006

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

Re: Support for California Preemption Exemption Petition: EE-RM-PET-100

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the 15,000 members of the Mono Lake Committee, we recommend strongly your approval of the Petition to Exempt from Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers.

California is the nation's largest water user with a vast water transportation infrastructure and water use consumes much of the state's energy budget. For example, 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, is the largest single user of electricity in the state. It is clear that more efficient water use will substantially reduce energy costs and use, and the state and its water agencies have made efficient and cost-effective energy and water conservation a high priority.

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 compelling interests and needs of California.

We support that residential clothes washer water efficiency standard of 8.5 effective January 1, 2007, followed by a 6.0 standard effective January 1, 2010. Implementation of these standards will create important water and energy savings for the region. Please approve the Petition to Exempt From Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers.

Sincerely,

Frances Spivy-Weber

Frances Spivy-Weber
Executive Director, Policy

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