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#59

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President

April 7, 2006

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Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Walter J. Bishop
General Manager

Subject: Docket number EE-RM-PET-100

**Support for Petition to Exempt From Preemption
California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) strongly urges you to approve the Petition to Exempt from Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers. CCWD serves 510,000 customers in the central and eastern portions of Contra Costa County near the San Francisco Bay Area. The District is a leader in water use efficiency and has developed a strong conservation program resulting in significant reduction to long-term water demand.

Due to the state's unique water and energy circumstances, California must pursue highly efficient and cost-effective energy and water conservation strategies. As California uses more water than any state and will continue rapid population growth, it should set a higher standard than the rest of the nation. The California Energy Commission has adopted a residential clothes washer water efficiency standard of 8.5 gallons of water per pound of clothing effective January 1, 2007 followed by a 6.0 standard effective January 1, 2010. Implementation of these standards will create tremendous water and energy savings for the state.

The District requests your support by approving the Petition to Exempt From Preemption California's Water Efficiency Standards for Residential Clothes Washers. It is critical to the state's economy and quality of life for future populations that will make California their home for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter J. Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W'.

Walter J. Bishop

WJB/PF