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**AHAM Applauds U.S. Department of Energy's Denial of California Petition for
Separate Water Standards for Residential Clothes Washers**

WASHINGTON, DC (December 28, 2006) — The appliance industry today applauded the decision by the Department of Energy (DOE) to deny a petition by the California Energy Commission (CEC) seeking separate water usage regulations for residential clothes washers sold in the state.

According to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), this important decision, announced today, recognizes the wisdom of Congress' decision to enact the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA) which established national standards for appliance energy efficiency.

Had the CEC's "Petition for Exemption from Federal Preemption of California's Water Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers" been granted, California would have been permitted to deviate from DOE's highly successful national energy efficiency program for these products, and establish separate efficiency standards for residential clothes washers sold in the state.

The proven success of the national program is reflected in the fact that since 1990 energy efficiency has improved nearly 85 percent for both refrigerators and clothes washers and 62 percent for dishwashers. In clothes washers and dishwashers, the minimum energy efficiency standards for those products have resulted in the reduction of water usage, directly addressing the water savings needs cited by the CEC in its request for a waiver.

In applauding the DOE's pro-consumer action, AHAM President Joseph M. McGuire said, "DOE's denial of this Petition recognizes the importance of having energy efficiency standards that are national in scope. Separate state efficiency standards are not effective in producing meaningful energy savings. They add cost, limit consumer choice and disadvantage consumers and manufacturers alike. Everyone benefits when manufacturers design and produce energy efficient products for a national market."

AHAM's membership includes manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry.

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The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) is a not-for-profit trade association representing manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry and is headquartered in Washington, DC. You can visit the AHAM web site at <http://www.aham.org>