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## APPLIANCE AND RETAIL INDUSTRY URGE QUICK ACTION ON CONSUMER REBATE PROGRAM FOR APPLIANCES

**WASHINGTON, DC (March 17, 2009)**— The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) urge the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to quickly disburse funding to state energy offices for the Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Programs so that consumer rebates will be available for the summer months to purchase ENERGY STAR appliances.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included \$300 million to fund a consumer rebate program, which will be administered through state energy offices for the purchase of ENERGY STAR appliances. This program will stimulate demand for home appliances, provide consumers with tremendous savings on the initial purchase cost and long-term utility costs of appliances, and will also provide an important environmental benefit by way of a significant decrease in energy consumption.

“Once the states receive funding from DOE for their rebate programs, consumers can begin to benefit from an immediate savings on the purchase cost of an ENERGY STAR appliance and on utility bills,” said Joseph McGuire, AHAM President. “AHAM urges the Department of Energy to quickly provide this stimulus funding to the states so they can get the money into the hands of consumers.”

In a joint letter, AHAM and RILA requested that DOE distribute the funds to state energy offices quickly and simply and allow existing and new state programs the flexibility to establish programs that meet regional needs. The associations provided DOE with broad guidelines for releasing the stimulus funds. AHAM and RILA also believe the benefit should include consumers with non-working appliances and consumers who are upgrading to energy efficient products before their current appliances cease to function.

The following ENERGY STAR rated appliances are manufactured by AHAM members: clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers, room air conditioners, dehumidifiers, room air cleaners, ventilating fans and battery charging systems.

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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>