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DOE INITIATES APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM TO ASSIST CONSUMERS WITH PURCHASE OF EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

WASHINGTON, DC (July 14, 2009)— The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) applauds the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for announcing today the release of program guidelines and funding for the Energy Efficient Appliance Consumer Rebate Program, which will be administered through state energy offices for the purchase of ENERGY STAR appliances.

This program, funded at \$300 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, 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.

The DOE announcement allows states to respond to the Energy Efficient Appliance Consumer Rebate Program solicitation with the individual state plan by August 15, 2009. DOE will then allocate funding to each state to administer and provide direct and immediate rebates to consumers that purchase ENERGY STAR appliances.

“Replacing older appliances with ENERGY STAR appliances is the most practical and effective step a homeowner can take to save energy and money on utility bills,” said Joseph McGuire, AHAM President.

In March, AHAM provided feedback to the DOE on principles that would create the most effective efficiency program for consumers. DOE accepted the critical principles AHAM suggested including allowing states flexibility on implementation of this program. DOE recommends that states and territories focus their program efforts on heating and cooling equipment, appliances, and water heaters.

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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>