

June 25, 2018

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Chairwoman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Pending Nomination – Daniel Simmons, Assistant Secretary Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), National Manufacturers Association (NAM), Air Movement and Control Association International (AMCA), Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association (PHCC), Heating, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Distributors (HARDI), and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce we write in strong support of Daniel Simmons to serve as the next Assistant Secretary of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

Mr. Simmons is currently serving as *Acting*-Assistant Secretary and is a passionate steward of the energy efficiency and renewables portfolio within the DOE. In his acting capacity, Mr. Simmons has brought a measured and thoughtful approach to achieving the Administration's principal goal of achieving regulatory reform while working to harness further efficiencies within the federal Appliance Standards Program. We believe there are many issues that require immediate attention and the sooner an Assistant Secretary for the Office of EERE can be confirmed the more certainty there will be for manufacturers and consumers of residential and commercial appliance products.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy plays a significant role for the residential and commercial appliance manufacturing industry given the programs of notable importance within its portfolio: specifically, the federal Appliance Standards and ENERGY STAR programs. The federal Appliance Standards Program sets important minimum energy efficiency levels that manufacturers of both residential and commercial products must meet in order to satisfy the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA). In addition, EERE administers certain aspects of the ENERGY STAR program, which is a shared program within the department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the past year, we have appreciated Mr. Simmons' collaborative approach to his work with both the Appliance Standards and ENERGY STAR programs. We believe his openness to dialogue among all stakeholders will serve both programs well in order to ensure energy efficiency and effective administration of these important programs is successful in the years ahead.

We strongly urge the Committee to support Mr. Simmons' nomination to become Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and move the nomination for consideration by the U.S. Senate as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE