

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2015

The Hon. Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

We are writing to express strong concern over the Department of Energy's (DOE) recent notice of proposed rulemaking for residential furnaces. While we support energy efficiency, we are extremely concerned that the nationwide 92% standard proposed in this rule will significantly increase costs to natural gas consumers, force them to switch to less efficient alternatives, and ultimately undermine the efficiency goals that underlie the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The DOE's own data shows that at the proposed 92% efficiency standard (replacing the current 80% standard), over 20% of consumers nationwide and 31% of consumers in the South seeking to replace an existing non-condensing furnace would experience a "net cost" (versus a net benefit) over the life of the furnace. As a result, DOE assumes that over 10% of such consumers in the North and 20% of such consumers in the South would switch from natural gas to electric heat. The fuel switching numbers are even more staggering in the new construction market.

By setting a nationwide energy efficiency standard that precludes a consumer from choosing to install a non-condensing furnace, DOE will be forcing many homeowners either to abandon the use of natural gas to heat their homes or to pay substantially more for the installation of a furnace that meets the new standard. Each of these options will cost residents, regardless of in what part of the country they reside, thousands of dollars. This will have a major impact on the ability of low and fixed income families to replace an aging furnace with the fuel of their choice. Many families will be faced with the difficult choice of having to replace their non-condensing furnace with either a condensing furnace with higher installation costs or electric heat and accompanying higher monthly energy bills.

We strongly encourage DOE to avoid such an "either-or" approach to furnace efficiency, by establishing separate product classes for condensing and non-condensing furnaces, each with its own efficiency standard. We are extremely concerned that requiring the elimination of the economical and efficient non-condensing furnace will place an unnecessary burden on already struggling homeowners in our states.

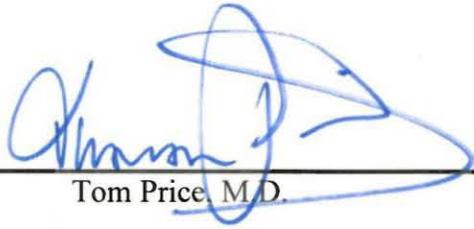
We thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

cc: Kathleen Hogan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency



Tom Price, M.D.



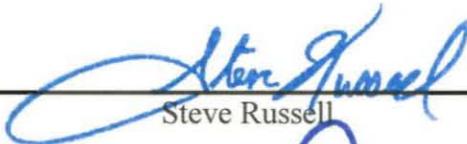
Lou Barletta



Bradley Byrne



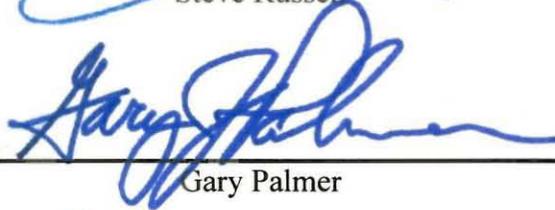
Glenn 'GT' Thompson



Steve Russell



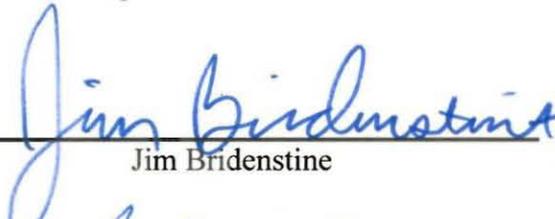
Joe Heck, D.O.



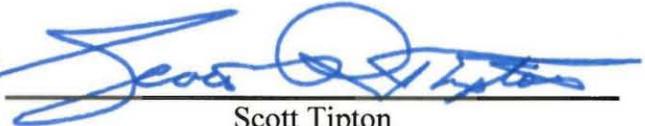
Gary Palmer



Kevin Yoder



Jim Bridenstine



Scott Tipton



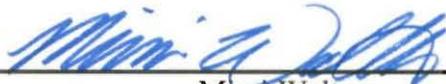
Robert Pittenger



Chuck Fleischmann



Robert Aderholt



Mimi Walters



Barry Loudermilk



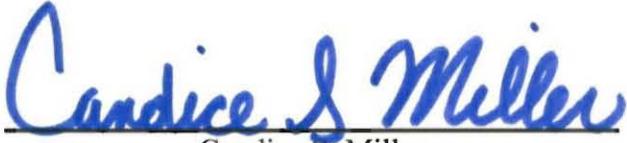
Gregg Harper



Mark Walker



Brian Babin



Candice S. Miller



Chris Stewart



Mike D. Rogers



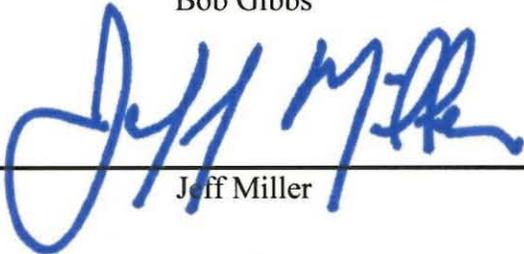
Jim Renacci



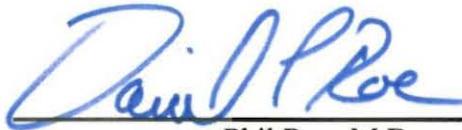
Bob Gibbs



Dave Brat



Jeff Miller



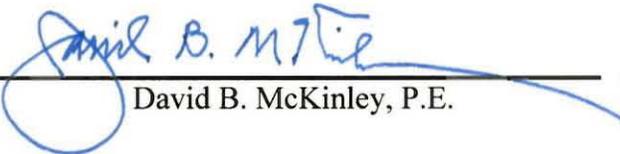
Phil Roe, M.D.



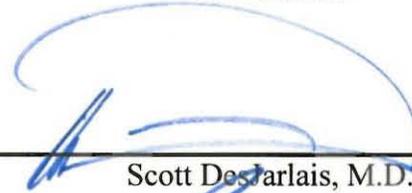
David Schweikert



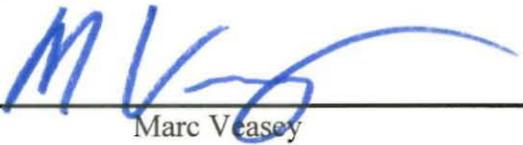
Tom Marino



David B. McKinley, P.E.



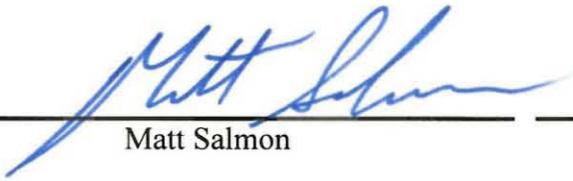
Scott Desjarlais, M.D.



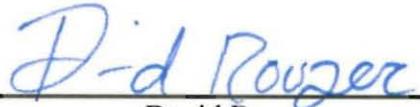
Marc Veasey



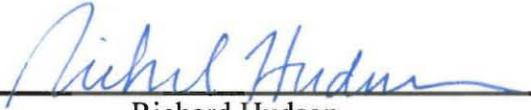
Ralph Abraham, M.D.



Matt Salmon



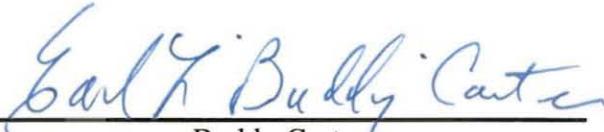
David Rouzer



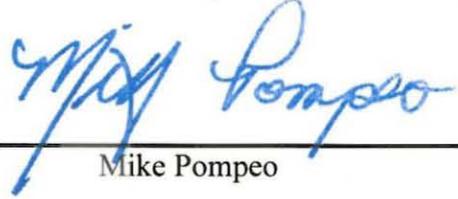
Richard Hudson



Crescent Hardy



Buddy Carter



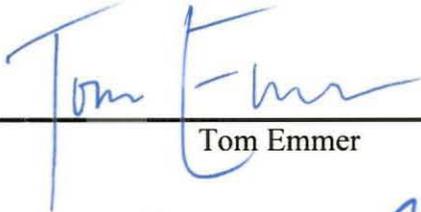
Mike Pompeo



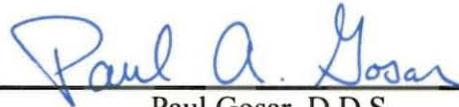
Martha Roby



Glenn Grothman



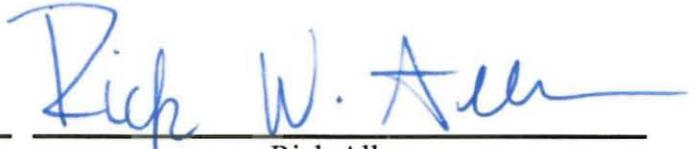
Tom Emmer



Paul Gosar, D.D.S.



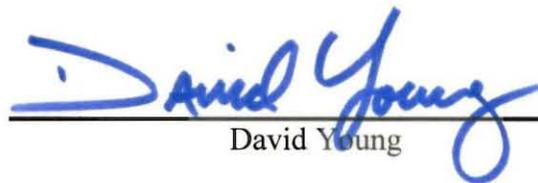
Ted S. Yoho



Rick Allen



Dan Benishek M.D.



David Young



Randy Weber



Mark Meadows



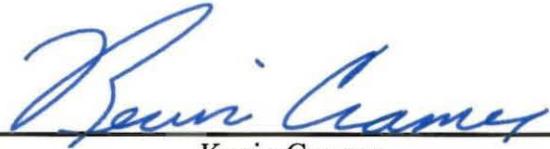
Kay Granger



Blake Farenthold



Bill Flores



Kevin Cramer



Daniel Webster



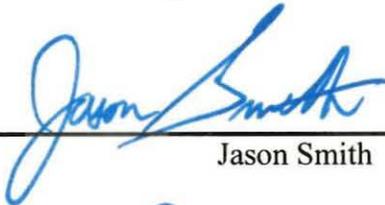
Tim Huelskamp



Markwayne Mullin



Chris Collins



Jason Smith



Steve Womack



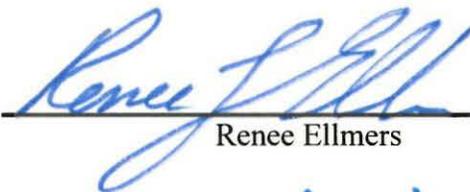
Diane Black



Keith Rothfus



Sean P. Duffy



Renee Ellmers



Alex X. Mooney



Jim Costa

Brad R. Wenstrup

Brad Wenstrup

Sam Graves

Sam Graves

C.W. Boustany Jr

Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.

Andy Barr

Andy Barr

Mike Bost

Mike Bost

Doug Collins

Doug Collins

Jody Hice

Jody Hice

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly

Jim Jordan

Jim Jordan

Lynn Jenkins

Lynn Jenkins

Andy Harris

Andy Harris

Billy Long

Billy Long

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson

Rob Woodall

Rob Woodall

David W. Jolly

David W. Jolly

Rodney Davis

Rodney Davis

Joe Barton

Joe Barton

Gus M. Bilirakis

Gus M. Bilirakis

Pete Olson

Pete Olson

Randy Forbes

Randy Forbes

Ed Whitfield

Ed Whitfield

Ken Calvert

Ken Calvert

John Duncan

John Duncan

Henry Cuellar

Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.

Steve King

Steve King

John Shimkus

John Shimkus

Jeb Hensarling

Jeb Hensarling

Pete Sessions

Pete Sessions

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler

Adrian Smith

Adrian Smith

Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn

Sam Johnson

Sam Johnson

Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones

Patrick T. McHenry

Patrick T. McHenry

Steve Chabot

Steve Chabot

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn

Frank D. Lucas

Frank D. Lucas

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Lamar Smith

Lamar Smith

Austin Scott

Austin Scott

Mick Mulvaney

Mick Mulvaney

Steve Pearce

Steve Pearce

Brett Guthrie

Brett Guthrie

Trent Franks

Trent Franks

Blaine Luetkemeyer

Blaine Luetkemeyer

Tom Graves

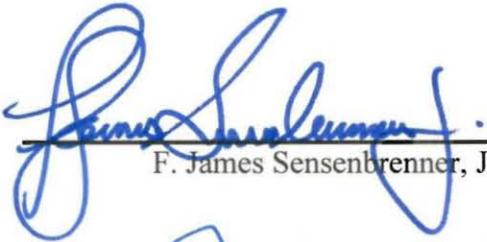
Tom Graves



Mike Coffman



Robert E. Latta



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.



Stephen Fincher



Tom Cole



Lynn Westmoreland



John Ratcliffe



John Moolenaar