

April 28, 2015

The Honorable Bob Latta (OH-05)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2448 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Welch (VT-AL)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Latta and Welch:

On behalf of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA), I write in support of the Energy Star Program Integrity Act (H.R. 504). RILA is the trade association of the world's largest, most innovative and recognizable retail companies and brands. Our membership includes more than 200 retailers, product manufacturers, and service suppliers, which together account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, millions of American jobs and more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.

For more than 20 years, ENERGY STAR has been a highly successful voluntary program designed to promote the development of energy efficient products. The ENERGY STAR program is popular with retailers and our customers who are interested in accessing a wide variety of affordable and efficient appliances and electronics. As a voluntary program, ENERGY STAR promotes economic growth and energy security while helping reduce pollution.

H.R. 504 addresses a gap in the law that enables follow-on private lawsuits against retailers and manufacturers in the event that a product is disqualified from the program. These lawsuits are a costly and unnecessary addition to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) existing ENERGY STAR enforcement apparatus, and threaten to undermine the ENERGY STAR program by making voluntary participation by manufacturers, retailers, and consumers too expensive. H.R. 504 protects consumers, codifies the existing EPA enforcement process, and promotes continued broad participation in the ENERGY STAR program.

H.R. 504 ensures that retailers and our customers can continue to enjoy a variety of energy efficient products. Without this bill, reduced participation in the ENERGY STAR program would mean fewer energy efficient product offerings from manufacturers, and may make the remaining ENERGY STAR products more expensive. Consumers also benefit from the ongoing energy savings and environmental protection that comes with a robust ENERGY STAR program. While reduced rates of participation in the ENERGY STAR program would slow the rate of innovation, high rates of participation in the ENERGY STAR program give the federal government increased flexibility to raise ENERGY STAR standards even further, encouraging manufacturers to voluntarily invest in energy efficient technologies.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jennifer M. Safavian  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs