

**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.

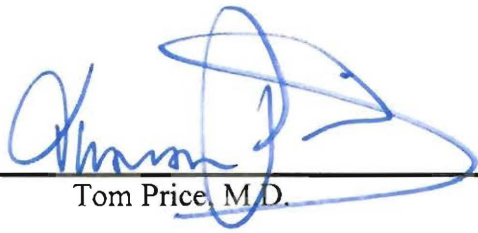
We thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress

cc: Kathleen Hogan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency



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Tom Price, M.D.



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Lou Barletta



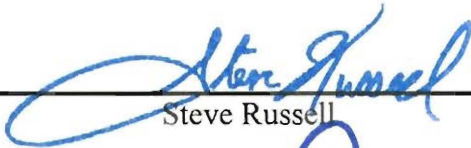
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Bradley Byrne



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Glenn 'GT' Thompson



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Steve Russell



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Joe Heck, D.O.



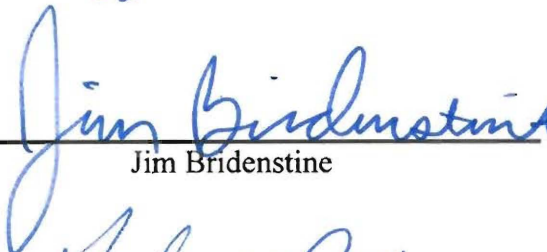
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Gary Palmer



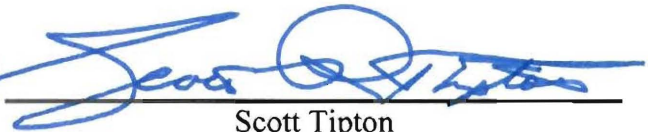
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Kevin Yoder



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Jim Bridenstine



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Scott Tipton



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Robert Pittenger



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Chuck Fleischmann



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Robert Aderholt



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Mimi Walters



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Barry Loudermilk



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Gregg Harper



Mark Walker



Brian Babin



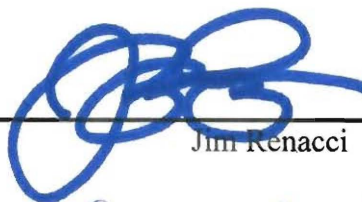
Candice S. Miller



Chris Stewart



Mike D. Rogers



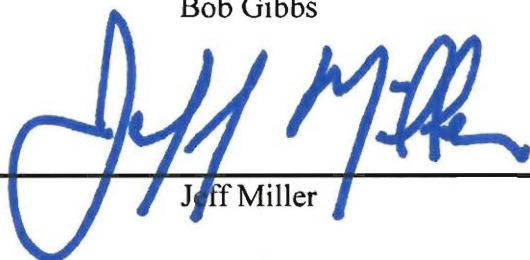
Jim Renacci



Bob Gibbs



Dave Brat



Jeff Miller



Phil Roe, M.D.



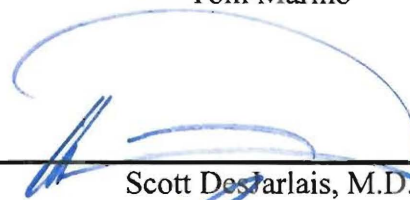
David Schweikert



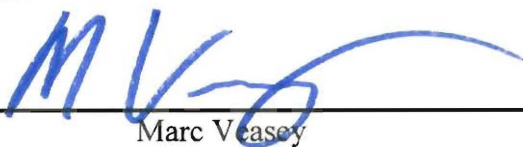
Tom Marino



David B. McKinley, P.E.



Scott Desjarlais, M.D.

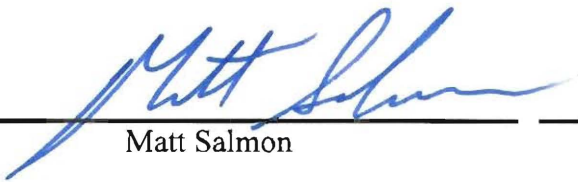


Marc Veasey

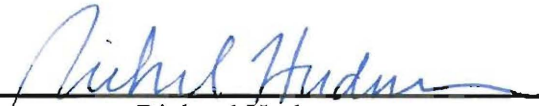


Ralph Abraham, M.D.




  
Matt Salmon

  
David Rouzer

  
Richard Hudson

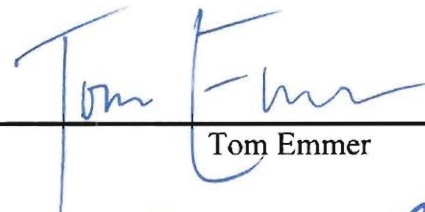
  
Crescent Hardy


  
Buddy Carter

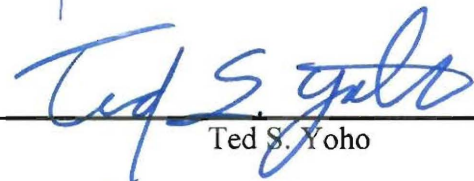
  
Mike Pompeo

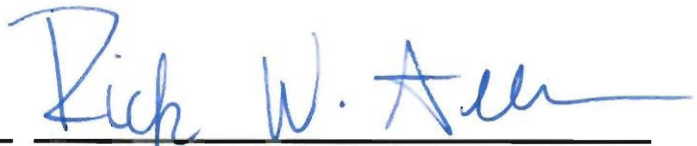
  
Martha Roby

  
Glenn Grothman

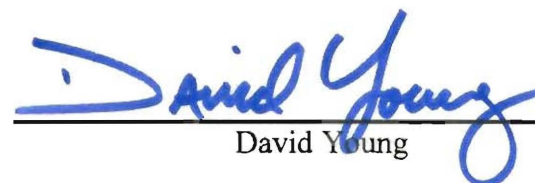
  
Tom Emmer


  
Paul Gosar, D.D.S.

  
Ted S. Yoho

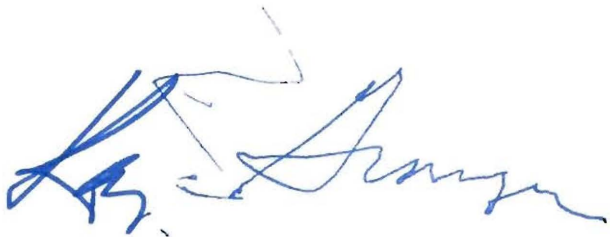
  
Rick Allen

  
Dan Benishek M.D.

  
David Young

  
Randy Weber

  
Mark Meadows



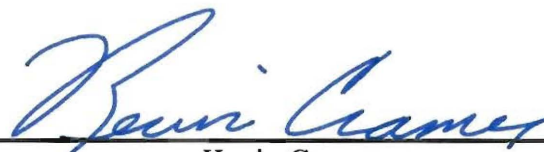
Kay Granger



Blake Farenthold



Bill Flores



Kevin Cramer



Daniel Webster



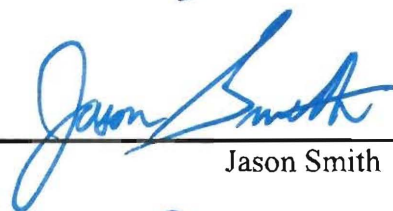
Tim Huelskamp



Markwayne Mullin



Chris Collins



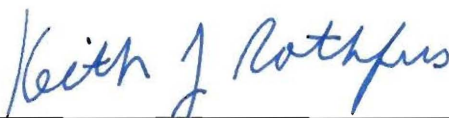
Jason Smith



Steve Womack



Diane Black



Keith Rothfus



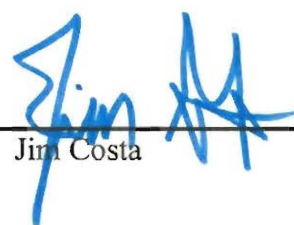
Sean P. Duffy



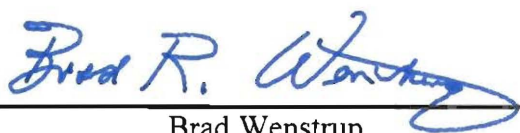
Renee Ellmers



Alex X. Mooney



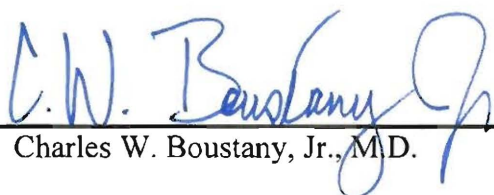
Jim Costa



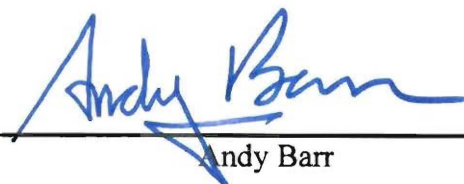
Brad Wenstrup



Sam Graves



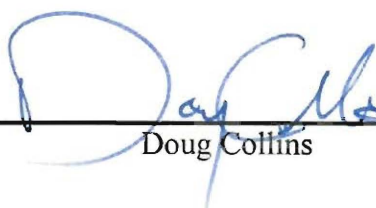
Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.



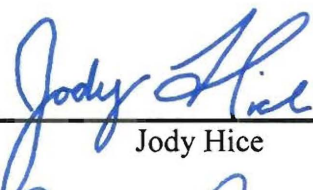
Andy Barr



Mike Bost



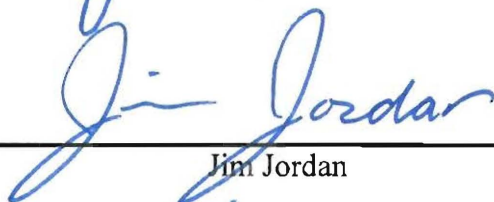
Doug Collins



Jody Hice



Mike Kelly



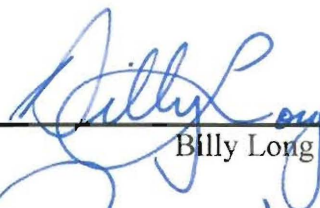
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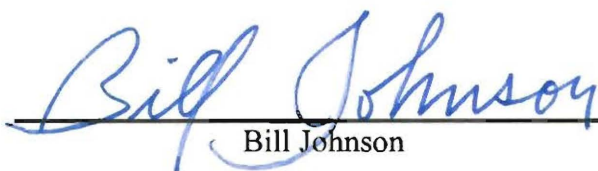
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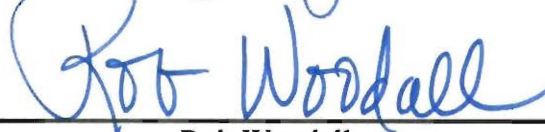
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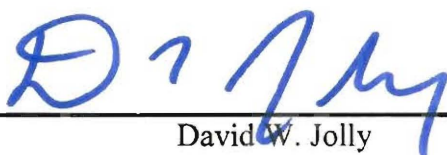
Billy Long



Bill Johnson



Rob Woodall



David W. Jolly



Rodney Davis





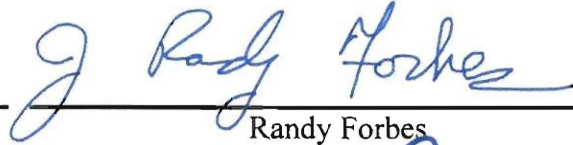
Joe Barton



Gus M. Bilirakis



Pete Olson



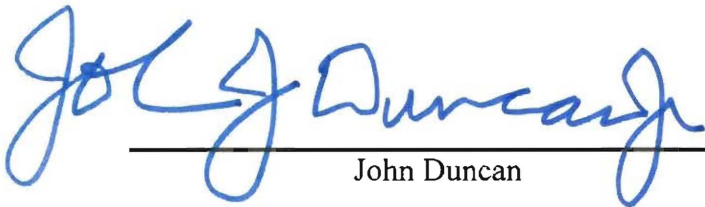
Randy Forbes



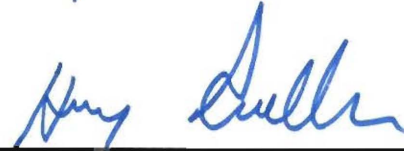
Ed Whitfield



Ken Calvert



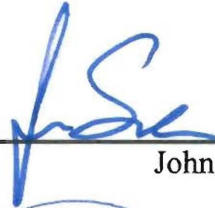
John Duncan



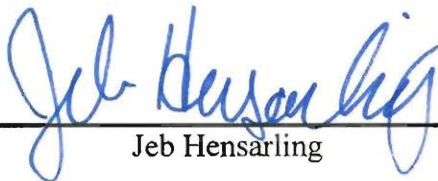
Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.



Steve King



John Shimkus



Jeb Hensarling



Pete Sessions



Vicky Hartzler




Adrian Smith



Louie Gohmert



Marsha Blackburn



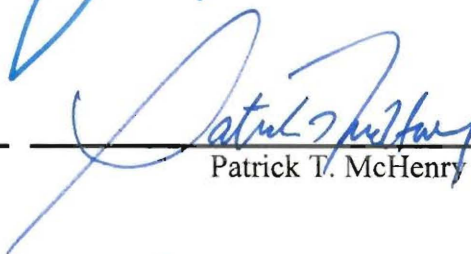
Sam Johnson



Tom McClintock



Walter Jones



Patrick T. McHenry



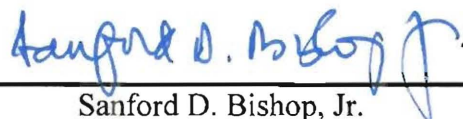
Steve Chabot



Doug Lamborn



Frank D. Lucas



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.



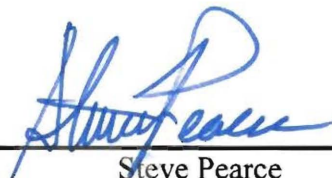
Lamar Smith



Austin Scott



Mick Mulvaney



Steve Pearce



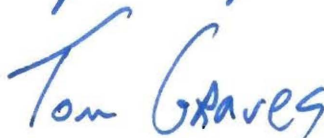
Brett Guthrie



Trent Franks



Blaine Luetkemeyer



Tom Graves

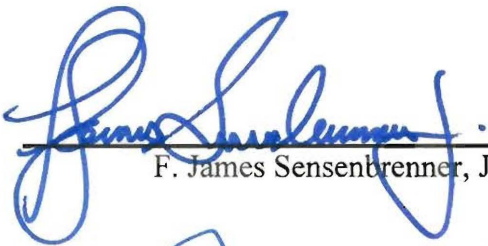




Mike Coffman



Robert E. Latta



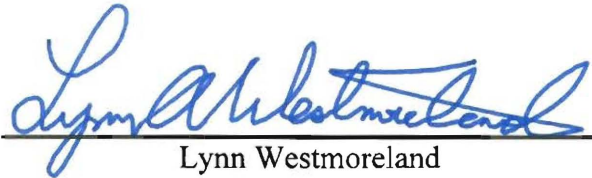
F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.



Stephen Fincher



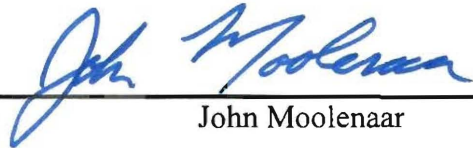
Tom Cole



Lynn Westmoreland



John Ratcliffe



John Moolenaar