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March 5, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Via Hand Delivery

MAR - 5 2009

DOCKETED BY

Re: Docket Numbers ~~E-01345A-08-0172~~ and E-00000J-08-0314

G-00000C-08-0314

Dear Commissioners:

I write on behalf of the Arizona Consumers Council, which has been educating, protecting and advocating on behalf of Arizona consumers for over 40 years. Energy and utility issues have long been important to the Consumers Council, which was instrumental in the creation of RUCO. We urge you to increase energy efficiency requirements as part of the APS rate case and as part of the Commission's workshops on energy efficiency.

As the Western Governors' Association noted, "Energy efficiency truly represents an undiscovered gold mine of energy and cost savings across the West." (See *Building an Energy Efficient Future*, Western Governors' Association, Policy Recommendations for Energy Efficient Buildings, January 2008). The Arizona Consumers Council believes that it is vital that we mine those savings now.

Energy efficiency programs are important to consumers not only because they help put money consumers' pockets through lower bills, but also because such measures help improve the quality of the air we breathe, and reduce the use of water, a precious commodity in our hot, dry desert. Energy efficiency measures that mitigate the effect of urban heat island improve the outdoors experience, and reduce the need for energy. Reduced energy usage also means a reduced need for new power plants, and thus a reduced need for major capital expenditures. Energy efficiency measures provide other benefits to our economy; such measures are labor-intensive, meaning they increase employment of Arizona residents. And, money spent on energy efficiency often stays here, benefiting our local economy.

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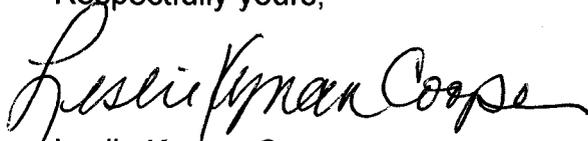
Arizona Consumers Council

The Arizona Consumers Council recognizes that increased energy efficiency measures can result in slightly higher rates. However, the benefits outlined here offset higher rates. And, in any event, energy efficiency measures should reduce the amount of energy customers use, thus lowering consumers' bills.

As part of the requirement that APS increase spending on energy efficiency, the Corporation Commission should ensure that APS makes available many energy efficiency options that help consumers lower their electric bills appreciably while maintaining their comfort. Such measures could include rebates and technical assistance to electric utility customers who purchase energy efficient air conditioners, lighting or other equipment or who make other investments in their homes that reduce energy use. The Consumers Council also supports programs that help reduce the heat island effect, by providing shading, cool roofs and cool pavements as well as programs that give developers and builders incentives to build and remodel more energy efficient homes. Education about energy efficiency is also useful. Of particular importance are grants that help weatherize low-income housing, whether owner-occupied or rental.

The Arizona Consumers Council thanks you for including our comments in your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours,



Leslie Kyman Cooper
Executive Director