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POLICY & ACTION FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

November 18, 2014

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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Mr. Bob Stump, Chairman
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

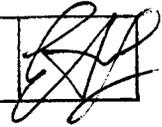
Arizona Corporation Commission

Re: Proposed Change to Arizona Energy Efficiency Requirements
(Docket No. E-00000XX-13-0214)

DOCKETED

NOV. 18. 2014

Dear Chairman Stump:

DOCKETED BY 

Consumers Union¹, the policy and advocacy arm of Consumer Reports, appreciates the opportunity to comment on a proposed change to Arizona's energy efficiency requirements for regulated utilities, and we write to state our opposition to the proposed change to eliminate the Energy Efficiency Standards.

No one likes to waste energy, and increasing energy efficiency is a common sense way to save energy and money. Consumer Reports provides consumers with helpful tips for saving energy in their homes and strives to provide consumers with accurate information about energy use of residential products so that consumers can compare products and lower their electric bills.

Home energy use is a significant expense for Arizonans, and cost-effective energy efficiency is the cheapest source of energy. Greater efficiency also helps avoid other enormous investments directly or indirectly paid by ratepayers, including electrical generation, transmission and distribution. In 2010, the Arizona Corporation Commission wisely recognized that increasing efficiency saves money, conserves water, and reduces pollution and voted unanimously to put Arizona on a more efficient path.

Arizona's current energy-efficiency programs, targeted by this proposed change, are proven to reduce energy consumption and are already saving consumers and businesses millions of dollars every year. By 2020, these programs are projected to reduce electricity consumption by 22 percent. However, the proposed change would erode these energy savings and force consumers to pay more for energy. Reversing course is a disservice to ratepayers—wasting energy will cost consumers money with no consumer benefit.

¹ Consumers Union is the public policy and advocacy arm of Consumer Reports. Consumers Union works on telecommunications reform, health reform, food and product safety, financial reform, energy, and other consumer issues. Consumer Reports is the world's largest independent product-testing organization. Using its more than 50 labs, auto test center, and survey research center, the nonprofit rates thousands of products and services annually. Founded in 1936, Consumer Reports has over 8 million subscribers to its magazine, website, and other publications.

Consumers Union urges the Commission to preserve Arizona's energy efficiency programs. Thank you for considering our views.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shannon M. Baker-Branstetter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon Baker-Branstetter
Policy Counsel, Consumers Union

Cc: Director Steven Olea