October 13, 2009

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the undersigned California utilities, we are writing to express our strong support for the California Energy Commission's proposed television efficiency standards (Docket Number 09-AAER-1C). Together, we provide energy services to over 33.5 million Californians.

We agree with the Commission that televisions represent a prominent and growing source of end-use energy consumption. Addressing this growth through a combination of energy performance standards and utility incentive programs will be necessary for California to meet statewide energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals, such as those articulated in AB 32 (Núñez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and the CPUC's recent 2010-2012 energy efficiency portfolio approval.

The proposed TV standards will generate an estimated 6,515 GWh in energy savings annually after all existing stock is replaced. For perspective, this is equivalent to roughly 2% of California's total system-wide electricity consumption in 2008. By focusing on demand-side efficiency, the standard will eliminate a power plant equivalent load from the electric grid (roughly 500MW). The overall energy cost savings for our customers is expected to be approximately $8.1 billion.

An unprecedented body of evidence has been presented before the Commission showing that the TV standards are feasible, cost-effective, and critical for meeting statewide goals. There are currently over 1000 TVs that meet the Tier 1 power requirements and nearly 300 TVs that meet the Tier 2 power requirements (15 and 39 months before the respective effective dates). Ample evidence has been presented before the Commission showing that TV manufactures are offering (or plan to offer before the effective dates) these energy-efficient TVs without sacrificing product performance.

The Commission should continue its decades-long track record of promoting energy efficiency through appliance and building standards—such as has been done previously with refrigerators, air conditioners, external power supplies, and many other appliances. In supporting this proposal, we believe that California will be doing what is best for the State, the environment and the consumer.

Sincerely,

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