



President Clinton, please don't drop the ball on air conditioning standards

We know. Air conditioning is the last thing on your mind right now.

It's the middle of winter. There's a lot to do before you leave the Oval Office.

But Mr. President, a new energy efficiency standard for residential central air conditioners is ready for you to sign.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has recommended a standard 30% stronger than the current one.

Enacting this standard would be one of the most significant accomplishments for energy and environment policy of your entire Administration.

With one stroke of your pen, you can save generating capacity equivalent to 120 large, coal-fired power plants.

And you can eliminate carbon emissions equivalent to taking 12.3 million cars off the road.

How? Energy guzzling central air conditioning in America's homes is a leading cause of system overload, brownouts and power disruptions every summer. And it's only getting worse.

You can provide a simple solution by requiring that all new central air conditioners incorporate the energy efficiency features of today's better units.

What about the cost? Consumers will actually save nearly \$5 billion a year on their electric bills.

Unfortunately, some have urged you to water down Energy Secretary Richardson's recommended standard.

They would have you foist the expense and environmental consequences of building dozens of unnecessary power plants on the American public.

Mr. President, the solution is in your hands. We're counting on you.

We know you're busy these last few weeks. But please don't drop the ball.

ASAP
Appliance Standards
Awareness Project

A consumer, environment, state government and utility coalition.

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