

35809

Position Statement on National Water Efficiency Standards

June 1999

The undersigned companies, organizations, and public agencies reaffirm our support for maintaining national standards for the water use efficiency of new plumbing products, as provided by current Federal law. From diverse perspectives, we each have come to support this approach to reducing the costs of providing safe drinking water, treating municipal wastewater, and protecting our rivers, lakes, estuaries, and wetlands.

The drought now affecting several portions of the United States serves to underscore the need to make more efficient use of our water supplies. Even where water is not scarce, efficient plumbing products help consumers and communities hold down the rising costs of additional water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Saving water also reduces the energy required to pump, heat, and treat water throughout the nation.

With over half of all indoor residential water use taking place in the bathroom, improved water efficiency in new toilets is central to most water conservation efforts. Several different technologies are employed in the latest generation of water-efficient toilets on the market today. Numerous reports have shown that the great majority of homeowners who have been surveyed are satisfied with the performance of these new toilets. Leading national consumer publications have highlighted many brands and models that meet their performance tests, and utilities that promote the installation of water-efficient toilets have received few complaints.

The rigors of the marketplace will drive even further improvements in the performance of plumbing products. However, the regulatory stability provided by current Federal law is very important to the U.S. plumbing industry. It allows businesses to bring improved products to a national market, rather than spend time and money designing products for differing flush volumes, flow rates, test procedures, certification requirements, and labeling rules, all of which could vary by state and local jurisdiction if Federal standards were repealed. Economies of scale -- an important factor in keeping costs to consumers low -- could be lost if this national market were to become fragmented.

Our message is straightforward: efficient plumbing products work, and efficient water use is an important national concern.

Alabama Rivers Alliance
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
American Society of Sanitary Engineers
American Supply Association
American Water Works Association
Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
The Bay Institute (CA)
California League of Conservation Voters
California Urban Water Conservation Council
Charles River Watershed Association (MA)
Clean Water Action
Committee on the Middle Fork of the Vermilion (IL)
Dallas Water Utilities
Delaware River Basin Commission
Denver Water
Environmental and Energy Study Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the River (CA)
Green River Watershed Preservation Alliance (VT)
Hampton Roads Water Efficiency Team (VA)
Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District (TX)
Heal the Bay (CA)
International Association of Plumbing and
Mechanical Officials
League of Women Voters of California
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Michigan Association of Distributors
Michigan Environmental Council
Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Mono Lake Committee (CA)
Municipal Water District of Orange County (CA)

National Association of
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors
National Association of
Service and Conservation Corps
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Hampshire Rivers Council
New Jersey Environmental Federation
Ohio Environmental Council
Parker River Clean Water Association (MA)
Plumbing Manufacturers Institute
Prairie Rivers Network (IL)
Public Citizen
Santa Monica BayKeeper (CA)
Save San Francisco Bay Association
Seattle Public Utilities
Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group
Southern Nevada Water Authority
Texas Committee on Natural Resources
Texas Section - American Water Works Association
Texas Water Conservation Association
Toto USA, Inc.
Union of Concerned Scientists
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the
United States and Canada (AFL-CIO)
US Public Interest Research Group
Water Conservation Coalition of Puget Sound
Water Environment Federation
Western Urban Water Coalition
Willimantic River Alliance (CT)

For more information about this issue, contact Patrick C. O'Connor, American Supply Association at 202-223-6222 or <Pocatko@aol.com>, or Edward R. Osann, Potomac Resources, Inc., at 202-429-8873 or <eosann@idt.net>

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RESOLUTION No.

Direct City Council to take a stand in opposition to federal House Rule 623, calling for the repeal of plumbing efficiency standards and endorsing the position statement on National Water Efficiency Standards (Resolution)

- WHEREAS, water efficient plumbing fixture standards were adopted in Oregon in 1992, requiring installation of water-efficient showerheads with a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute, low-volume faucet aerators with a flow rate of no more than 2.5 gallons per minute, toilets with a flush volume of 1.6 gallons per flush, and urinals with a flush volume of 1 gallon per flush for new construction and remodels, and
- WHEREAS, the Portland City Council was on record in 1992 in support of the Oregon standards and subsequently of the proposed 1992 amendments to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act which required the same water efficient plumbing standards, and
- WHEREAS, a bipartisan agreement among Members of Congress resulted in approval of the amendments to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (PL102-486), and
- WHEREAS, plumbing manufacturers revised their production lines to meet the federal standards and have been producing water-efficient plumbing products since 1992, and
- WHEREAS, the water savings attributed to plumbing code changes are referred to as "naturally occurring conservation", and
- WHEREAS, with water efficient plumbing fixtures installed just in new homes nationally last year, will result in savings of 1.6 billion gallons of water in 1999, enough to fill 1.2 million olympic-sized swimming pools, and
- WHEREAS, Portland citizens have reduced their water use by up to 15% since 1992, some related to naturally occurring conservation - plumbing fixture changes that won't be reversed, and
- WHEREAS, 82 Co-Sponsors have introduced HR 623, an amendment to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which would eliminate the water-efficient plumbing standards, and
- WHEREAS, over 70 associations, water providers, local governments, environmental organizations, labor organizations, citizen interest organizations, and plumbing manufacturers and contractors have joined together to draft and support the "*Position Statement on National Water Efficiency Standards*" which opposes HR 623 (attached), and

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WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the City of Portland to join in opposition of HR 623

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Portland continues to support water efficient plumbing standards in Oregon and nationally, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council opposes HR 623, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Portland supports the "*Position Statement on National Water Efficiency Standards*" and with the coalition of other entities adds its voice to the opposition of HR 623

ADOPTED by the Council, **JUL 28 1999**

Commissioner Erik Sten
jlj

GARY BLACKMER

Auditor of the City of Portland

By

Bette Olson

Deputy

1087

Agenda No

35809

RESOLUTION NO.

Title

Direct City Council to take a stand in opposition of federal H R 623, calling for the repeal of plumbing efficiency standards and endorsing the Position Statement on National Water Efficiency Standards" (Resolution)

INTRODUCED BY	Filed	JUL 23 1999
Commissioner Sten	Barbara Clark Auditor of the City of Portland	
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	By <u>Ray Kershner</u> Deputy	
Affairs	For Meeting of	
Finance and Administration	Action Taken	
Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Amended	
Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Continued to	
Works Commissioner Sten <i>[Signature]</i>		
BUREAU APPROVAL		
Bureau Water Works <i>[Signature]</i>		
Prepared by Date Judi Ranton July 19, 1999		
Budget Impact Review <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required		
Bureau Head Michael F Rosenberger, Administrator		

AGENDA		FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS	
			YEAS	NAYS
Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regular	Francesconi	S	
NOTED BY		Hales		
City Attorney		Kafoury		
City Auditor		Sten		
City Engineer		Katz		