

1919 S. Eads St. Arlington, VA 22202 703-907-7600 **CTA.tech**

March 11, 2025

Administrator Lee Zeldin Environmental Protection Agency Office of the Administrator 1101A 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Washington, DC 20460

Via email: Zeldin.Lee@epa.gov

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

Congratulations on your new role leading the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)! At a time of rapid changes in technology and innovation, your leadership will help shape policies and programs that impact both American businesses and the environment. The balance of protecting our environment and driving innovation and progress will take strong leadership and collaboration across stakeholders.

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA) represents more than 1200 American technology companies. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups, scale-ups, and global leaders – who are building the future. In conjunction with our investments in American innovation, our members have lofty goals around and are driving meaningful sustainability impacts across their operations, supply chains, and product portfolios. That includes achievements in energy efficiency across a multitude of technology product categories.

We are writing to you today to express our strong desire to see the ENERGY STAR program continue to be administered by and grown under the US EPA. CTA and our member companies have been active stakeholders and partners in the ENERGY STAR program for decades. We actively engage in the development of product specifications and work to drive forward meaningful energy efficiency advancements.

As a voluntary program devised with the leadership of industry, ENERGY STAR is a perfect example of how thoughtful guidelines can promote consumer welfare and innovation and promote competition without imposing burdensome regulations. It's one of the best examples of a successful public-private partnership that has driven real energy efficiency gains. It's also a critical path in making strides toward energy dominance and energy independence.

The ENERGY STAR label is one of the most well recognized eco-labels in the world. Consumers understand they're not only purchasing the most energy efficient products on the market, but they are obtaining long-term cost savings with their purchase. The program has helped consumers and purchasers avoid more than \$500 billion in energy costs and save 5 trillion kilowatt-hours of

Consumer Technology Association[®] Producer of CES[®] electricity since its inception – and it accomplished this without heavy handed regulation on industry.¹

We understand EPA is undertaking significant efforts to evaluate its workforce and priorities under the new Administration. It is a big undertaking, and we acknowledge that tough decisions may need to be made. However, we strongly encourage the US EPA to keep the ENERGY STAR program intact. The value to both companies and consumers is measurable and impactful.

Together, industry and EPA have driven significant advancements in energy efficiency via ENERGY STAR. We ask for EPA's continued partnership to keep the ENERGY STAR program going under the current Administration.

Sincerely,

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Gary Shapiro CEO & Vice Chair Consumer Technology Association

CC: Eric Amidon, EPA Chief of Staff

¹ US EPA ENERGY STAR, "Real-World Impacts", *About ENERGY STAR*, <u>www.energystar.gov/about</u>.