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Filer:	Edward Moreno
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May 28, 2015

Harinder Singh
Appliances and Existing Buildings Office
California Energy Commission
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Docket Number 14-AAER-2

Dear Harinder Singh:

On behalf of Sierra Club and its more than 380,000 members and supporters in California, I submit the following comments on the Analysis of Computers, Computer Monitors, and Signage Displays posted on March 12, 2015.

Computers have become an integral part of everyday life for Californians, which means that a greater and greater portion of energy consumed in the home and offices and similar building types is used by this known plug load. Though most, if not all computers, have some form of an automate power management feature, computers are not going into an idle, sleep mode or turning off automatically as often as users think. This results in a significant amount of energy wasted and many efficiency opportunities lost.

Studies have shown that over of a third of users disable the automated management features to manually manage energy usage, claiming that the restart time is too long; there is a need to keep computers on for updates, backups and remote access. Unfortunately, about two thirds of those who disable the features fail to use efficiency features and leave the computer on. This is largely a result of user error, knowledge gaps and the belief that the computer will sleep on it's on. Improvements in management options and interfaces for users could result in better understanding of computer efficiency and greater delivered energy savings.

Sierra Club California recognizes the importance tackling this power management issue in computers and thanks the California Energy Commission (CEC) for targeting these products for inclusion in its appliance efficiency regulations. The regulations target computers, computer monitors and electronic displays, but specifically they focus on energy consumption in idle-mode where the product conducts relatively few, if any, specialized tasks. This is particularly important as a majority of the energy consumed by computers is during periods where they are on and not being used.

These standards will help combat climate disruption in California by cutting the energy consumption in the home and office. Reductions in energy demand result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions (0.634 MMTCO2e of avoided emissions) and improved air quality, especially in the disadvantaged communities, which tend be disproportionately impacted by climate disruption. This is because fewer polluting power plants are built in this state. For these reason, we support the CEC's efforts in increasing energy efficiency in one of our most ubiquitous products.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Edward Moreno

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