

Sample letter to the Whitehouse Regarding Federal Executive Order on EPEAT

The Honorable Kate Brandt
Federal Environmental Executive
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
MC 1600
Washington, DC 20406

RE: Executive Order 13693 on sustainable electronics purchasing

Dear Ms. Brandt:

I am the [title] of [organization.] [Explain your organization's connection to EPEAT or electronics purchasing, such as:]

- My agency purchases \$XXX of electronics each year, and we have used the EPEAT program for guidance
- My state has passed legislation mandating that we purchase EPEAT registered electronics
- I have participated in developing EPEAT standards
- My company is a electronics recycler, certified to one of the standards mandated by the EPEAT program for responsible recycling

I am writing to express my concern about the language in Executive Order 13693 regarding purchasing of electronics. While the Order supports the federal agencies' ability to purchase environmentally sustainable electronic products, it sets in motion some changes which we believe will result in the demise of the EPEAT program, which is the only program currently available in the U.S. that allows institutional purchasers to identify and purchase greener electronics.

The Order revoked Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, which established EPEAT and required federal agencies to purchase EPEAT registered products. But the new Order doesn't even mention EPEAT and doesn't guide agencies to purchase EPEAT products. Why would the Whitehouse want to undermine a program that has been so successful, and used by so many purchasers - in both the public and private sector?

The Order also gave federal agencies a new option. They can now use practically any voluntary consensus standard to guide their purchasing, instead of using a leadership standard like EPEAT. This is very troubling to those of us who want to use our organizations' purchasing power to reward leadership companies who are making greener products. We fear that the Order has created an incentive for the industry to create and use weaker, least-common-denominator standards, which will eventually result in the end of the EPEAT program altogether.

This is a step in the wrong direction. I am writing to encourage you to take steps to correct this problem, which could be done with guidance in the implementing instructions, which the Order requires you to create in the very near future. I have two suggestions for those implementing instructions:

- 1. Encourage the use of the EPEAT standards for purchasing electronics; and**
- 2. Allow agencies to use other consensus-based standards ONLY if the EPA does not have a recommendation for standards or labels to guide purchases in a product category.**

Please don't allow the years of good work establishing the EPEAT program to be wasted. [Explain how not having EPEAT will be detrimental to your organization or your efforts.] I hope we can rely on you to take immediate action to protect this important program from being eliminated.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter. [Contact info]

Sincerely,

[Name, title]