

and therefore, higher peak rates drive up the average costs. Less efficient equipment operating at peak times drives up the cost of electricity for all customers, including those of low income, who are less likely to have central air conditioning. According to 1997 Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) microdata (the same data set used by DOE in their analysis), of the total 101 million households represented, approximately 46% have central air conditioning, but among poor households, only 25% have central air conditioning; just half the rate of presence among non-poor households (See Exhibit 2).

Also related to distributional equities and according to the RECS data, among households below the poverty level, about 60% rent their housing units. This is in contrast to 27% of above poverty level households that rent (See Exhibit 2). Therefore, low-income consumers, or those defined as "poor" in TSD Table 10.1, are not the ones to buy a central A/C or heat pump product, but they would be the one to pay the utility bill (or likely face increased rents if utilities were included in their rent) for the use of that product. Instituting a higher minimum efficiency standard will actually ensure that low-income consumers have lower utility bills, providing a benefit to this population.

MISINFORMATION ON PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

DOE justifies a lower SEER rule because the higher efficiency levels would put manufacturers out of business. However, according to the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) database of model combinations, many manufacturers already produce models that meet the 13 SEER requirements. This technology has been available for many years to large and small manufacturers alike. Although confidential ARI shipment information may not reflect large sales of high efficiency equipment, the publicly accessible ARI database of models shows extensive product availability. Over 7,000 air source heat pump model combinations and over 14,000 central air conditioner model combinations currently meet or exceed the 13 SEER level as listed by ARI.

The TSD (TSD page 8-2) describes a group of manufacturers that "offer more substantial customer and dealer support and more advance products. To cover these higher operating expenses, this group attempts to "sell-up" to more efficient products or products with features that consumers and dealers value." With a higher standard, these manufacturers would not go out of business, but would rather continue to sell-up, to even higher efficiency levels or additional valued features.

Furthermore, results and upcoming plans for utility programs around the country also document the availability of 13 SEER and above products, as well as the demand for such products. Austin Energy's Residential Efficiency Program 2000-2001 gave rebates to single family existing homes for installation of split systems and heat pumps with efficiencies of 12 SEER and above. Rebates were staged: \$150 for 12.0-12.9 SEER; \$250 for 13.0-13.9 SEER; \$400 for 14.0-14.9 SEER; and \$500 for 15.0 and above. In total, 4,000 rebates averaging \$312 were given to consumers. These numbers illustrate that a significant portion of the rebates given were for 13 SEER and above units.

In New Jersey, a 3-year rebate structure began in 2000 with a \$370 rebate given for the installation of 13.0 SEER equipment and a \$550 rebate given for 14.0 SEER equipment. A total of 14,000 rebates were given in the year 2000. As of August 2001, 8,000 rebates were given out with approximately 6,000 of these units at the 14.0 SEER level. Overall results in New Jersey show that 27% of the market

(1998-2000) are 13 SEER or higher with 60% of those being at the 14 SEER or higher levels.

The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) instituted a program similar to the one in New Jersey offering rebates for installation of 13.0 and 14.0 SEER equipment. Results to date show that LIPA is on target to reach their goal of approximately 3,500 rebates for 13 SEER equipment. Approximately 80% of these rebates are for SEER 14 equipment. LIPA is expecting to ramp up to 5,000 rebates in 2002. Overall, 17% of LIPA's market in 2000 is at 13 SEER or higher, with the market share for existing homes even higher at 22%.

Program plans for 2002 in Texas and California are geared toward equipment at 13 SEER and above. Reliant Energy in Southeast Texas is planning an incentive program to target 13 SEER and above matched systems. California's two large municipal utilities (Sacramento Municipal Utility District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) and four investor owned utilities (San Diego Gas and Electric, Southern California Gas, Southern California Edison, and Pacific Gas and Electric), serving over 30,000,000 consumers, are planning rebate programs to assure California residents receive energy efficient equipment, measures, and practices that provide maximum benefit for the cost. These programs all revolve around 13 SEER equipment or higher. Actual incentive amounts are not yet available.

RECORD CLARIFICATION

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I have a clarification for the RECORD. Amendment No. 2018 is an Inhofe amendment and not a Chafee amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The RECORD will so reflect.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess today from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3061, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Dorgan amendment No. 2024, to provide for mandatory advanced electronic information for air cargo and passengers entering the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, first I salute Chairman HARKIN and Senator SPECTER for doing, in my view, a superb job with respect to this bill. They have really set a special standard in terms of trying to work on important issues in a bipartisan way. The chairman has left the Chamber, but I want him to know how much I appreciate the good work he and his staff are doing on this issue.

This morning I wish to talk about a health and a scientific issue of extraordinary importance, and that is the vacancies that now exist at the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Cancer Institute. At a time when the public is focused on public health because of bioterrorism, there are many reasons we should be concerned about the work of these agencies and get these positions filled.

I want to talk for a few moments about why I am so troubled by the vacancies we are seeing at these agencies today. This has been, as all of us know, a decade of remarkable scientific progress in the health care field. It has really been something of a scientific and health care renaissance with extraordinary amounts of information learned about cells, about cancers, about what has come to be known as biological detectors that are important as we deal with anthrax and smallpox, and various other serious health concerns that Americans are focused on today.

This scientific progress has been bipartisan. Democrats and Republicans alike have joined to support funding for these very key public health agencies, and we have worked together to ensure these programs are properly funded.

I am convinced if those vacancies are not promptly filled, if we do not soon get a head of the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration and the National Cancer Institute—if those positions are not soon filled—it threatens to unravel some of the important progress that has been made in this country over the last decade.

Suffice it to say, if those positions are not filled, a message is sent to the young scientists, to the young future leaders of this country in the health care field, that the Federal Government does not think this is particularly important. It takes years for