

September 14, 2006

Dear State Agency Employees –

Governor Kaine has joined forces with other state Governors across the country to participate in the ENERGY STAR® *Change a Light, Change the World* campaign. This national call-to-action from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) encourages every individual to help change the world, one light — one energy-saving step — at a time.

As part of this national movement, Governor Kaine is encouraging all State Employees to replace at least one incandescent bulb or fixture at home with one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR label – as a first step to preserving Virginia's energy resources and environment. Governor Kaine hopes to achieve this goal on or before October 4, 2006, National ENERGY STAR Change a Light Day. If all 117,845<sup>1</sup> State Employees take the pledge to change one bulb or fixture, we could save over 32 million kWh over the life of the bulb.<sup>2</sup> All state agencies are also encouraged to replace their incandescent bulbs with screw-in fluorescent bulbs to also save energy and reduce our energy bills at work.

We are encouraging state employees to make a simple, yet meaningful commitment by taking the online ENERGY STAR *Change a Light* Pledge. With lighting accounting for about 20 percent of the typical home's electricity use, switching to energy-efficient options is a significant way to reduce greenhouse gases, save energy and protect the environment for future generations. To be part of this effort, take the pledge online at [www.energystar.gov/changealight](http://www.energystar.gov/changealight)

The ENERGY STAR *Change a Light* Pledge is already having a dramatic impact. Individuals who pledged to change a light in 2005 alone have the potential to save more than \$2 million in energy costs!

#### **About ENERGY STAR®**

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce air pollution through increased energy efficiency. Today, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, the ENERGY STAR program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy and money, and help protect our environment for future generations. More than 8,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)



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<sup>1</sup> State of Virginia. Department of Human Resources web site

<sup>2</sup> ENERGY STAR, 2006