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DOOR MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

332 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

CHICAGO 4, ILLINOIS

May 6, 1946

Hon. Henry A. Wallace
Secretary of Commerce
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wallace:

We have read, with considerable interest, a release from the Department of Commerce dated March 4, 1946, being a copy of your letter to Mr. Charles E. Wilson, Chairman of the Policy Committee on Standards of the Department of Commerce; also an article appearing in Business Week for March 30, 1946 entitled "Compromise on Standards".

It is apparent from the above that there is some likelihood that the Bureau of Standards may eventually discontinue its function of initiating and promoting commercial standards which, hereto-fore have been carried on by the Division of Trade Standards. We desire to register our determined opposition to any such plan. There are several sound and practical reasons for our opposition.

From December 30, 1943 to September 15, 1944, this association collaborated with the Division of Trade Standards in the formulation of commercial standards for Ponderosa Pine Stock Doors. The result was the publication of Commercial Standards CS120-44 on September 15, 1944. It is no exaggeration to say that this Standard has resulted in material and wide spread economies for the general public in addition to simplifying the production of Ponderosa Pine Doors. It has unquestionably proven a boon to the Home Builders of America and will continue to benefit them for all time to come. We are definitely committed to commercial standards as a result of our experience with CS120-44.

Granting that private industry could initiate and promote commercial standards without government assistance, it is our firm belief that standardization would be materially retarded, should the government step out of the picture. The Bureau of Standards has earned the confidence and respect of American Industry and Commerce. It has lent a dignity and official sanction to standardization which it would be difficult, if not impossible, for private industry groups to do alone. This is one of the fields in which government definitely has an essential function to perform.

Hon. Henry A. Wallace

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We trust, therefore, that in any departmental re-organization you may contemplate, you will strive to retain for all industry and for the consuming public the tangible benefits of commercial standards as a permanent governmental function of your department.

Very truly yours

Orrin C. Lance

O. C. Lance/kjf
Secretary-Manager

c.c. to: Mr. Harry H. Steidle
Prefabricated Home Manufacturers' Institute
Shoreham Building
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and
Dr. E. U. Condon
Director of the National Bureau of Standards
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Washington 25, D. C.