



standardization  
and innovation

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## Impact of Regulatory Standards on Innovations in the HVACR Industry

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# Introduction to ARI

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- National trade association formed in 1953 and headquartered in Arlington, Virginia
- Represents more than 90% of North American produced air conditioning and commercial refrigeration equipment manufacturers
- Over 200 members in 26 product sections



# Impact of Regulatory Standards on Innovations in the HVACR Industry

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## ■ Agenda

- What is Innovation?
- Regulatory Environment in the HVACR Industry
- Case Study One
  - Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio
- Case Study Two
  - State Efficiency Standards
- Conclusions



# What is Innovation?



# What is Innovation?



# What is Innovation?

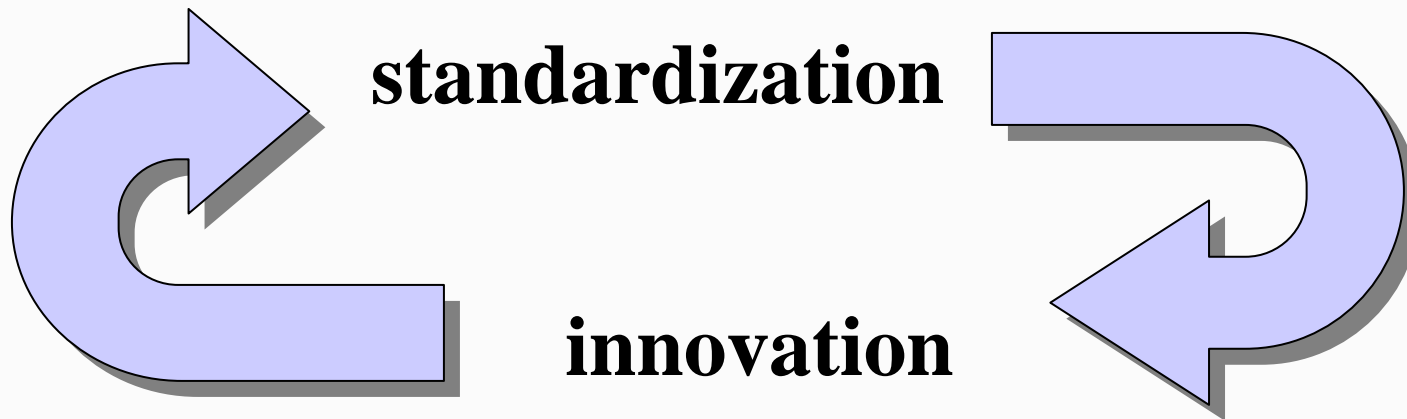
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- CNN's list of top 10 innovations since 1980
  1. The Internet
  2. Cell phone
  3. Personal computers
  4. Fiber optics
  5. E-mail
  6. Commercialized GPS
  7. Portable computers
  8. Memory storage discs
  9. Consumer level digital camera
  10. Radio frequency ID tags

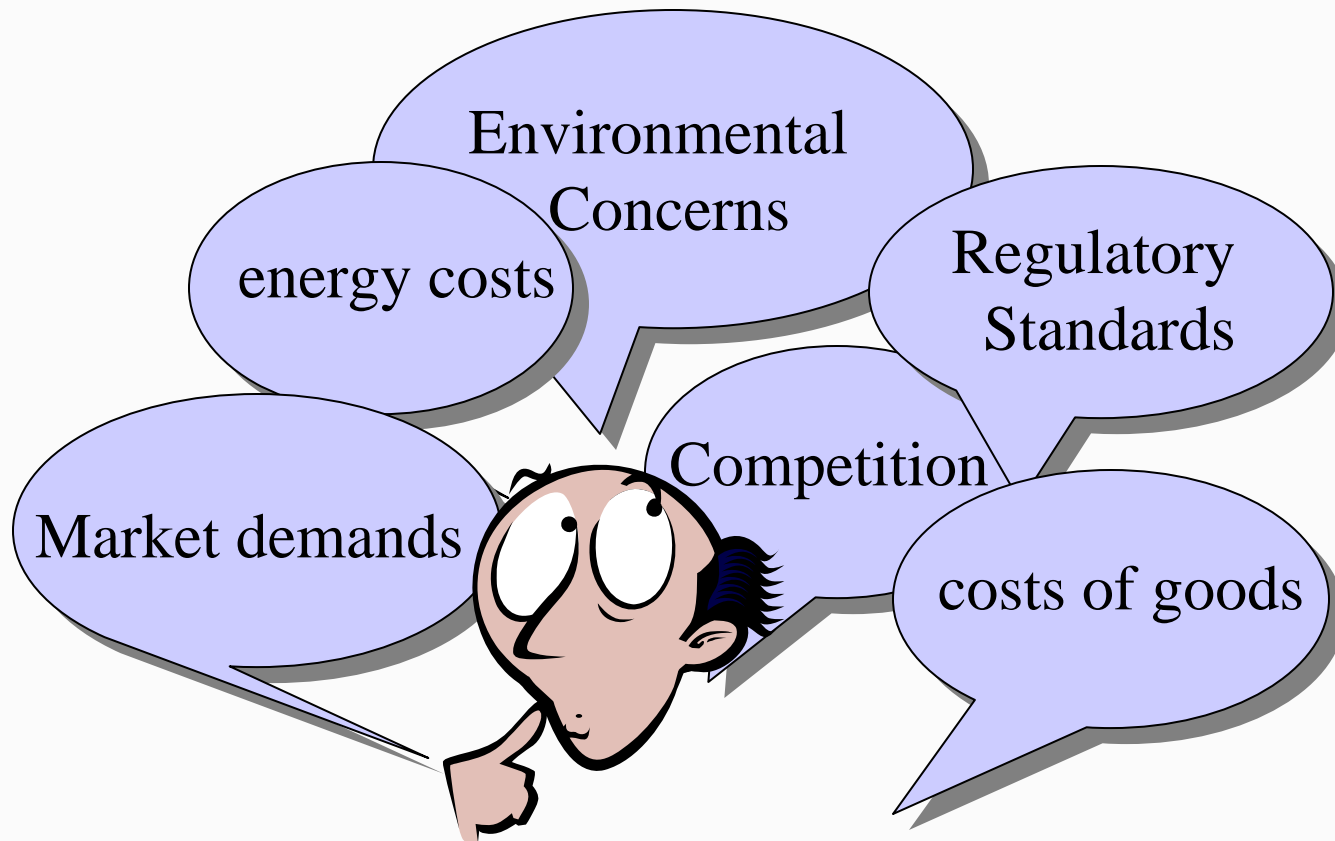


# Standardization or Innovation; Which comes first?

- Does standardization drive innovation or visa versa?



# Innovation Priorities; Which comes first?





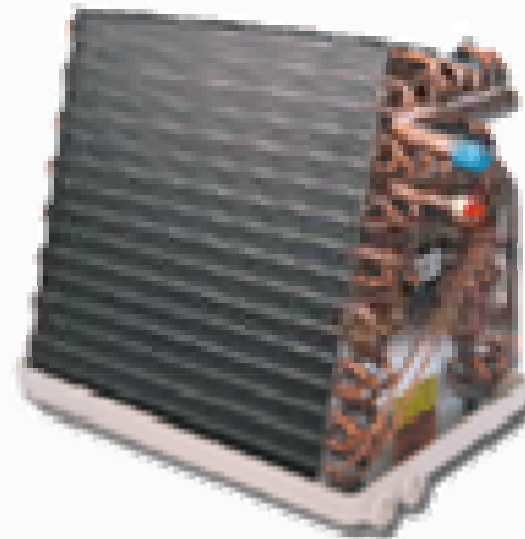
# Regulatory Environment in the HVACR Industry

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- Long history of federal, state, voluntary, and mandatory energy efficiency standards in the U.S.
- Majority of US HVACR products are covered under one of the following energy efficiency standards:
  - National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA)
  - Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT)
  - ASHRAE 90.1
  - State Regulations



# Case Study One: National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA)

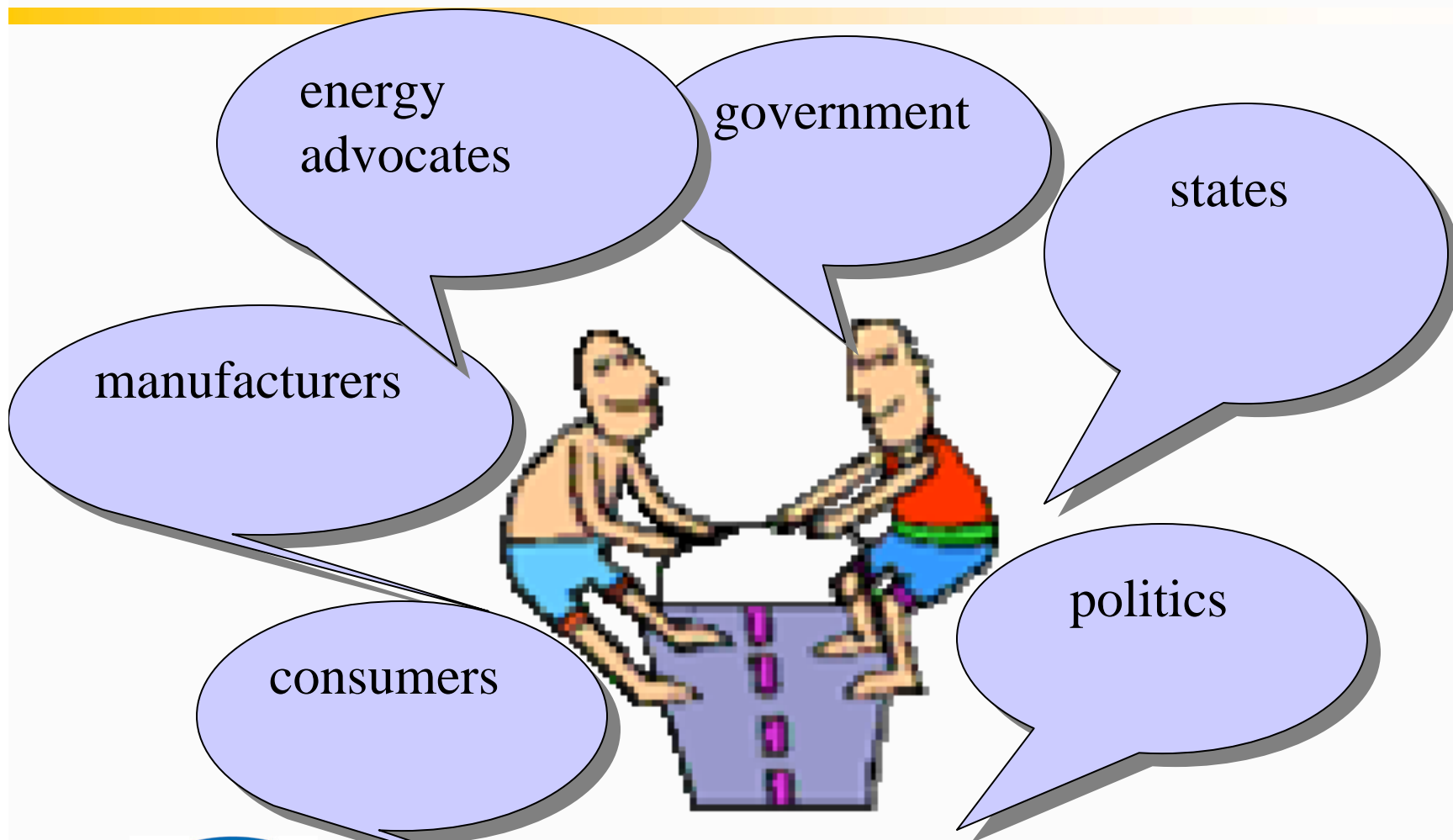


# Case Study One: National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA)

- NAECA is standard that established a national minimum efficiency of 10 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio)
- SEER is the recognized energy efficiency descriptor for residential air conditioners and heat pumps
- NAECA also mandated the US Department of Energy (DOE) to increase federal minimum efficiency through rulemaking
- Highly publicized debate amongst all stakeholders between 12 and 13 SEER



# Case Study One: National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA)



# Case Study One: National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA)

- The 12/13 SEER debate (Manufacturers' perspective)
  - Standard needs to be “technologically feasible and economically justifiable”
  - Reduced choices
  - Long payback for majority of the country
  - 75% of consumers will not benefit



# Case Study One: National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA)

- Effective Jan 23, 2006 -- New minimum energy efficiency standards
  - 13 SEER → 30% increase over current levels
- Impacts on innovation
  - Millions of dollars spent on retooling
  - Countless hours spent on redesigning production line, design to mass produce what was a premium line
  - Design equipment to fit in existing footprint
  - Significant compliance efforts
  - Consumed all available resources to comply with new standard



# Case Study Two: State Efficiency Standards

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- NAECA and EPACT established federal minimum efficiency levels and regulations for most residential and commercial air conditioning and refrigeration equipment
- Key element of federal regulations is the concept of “preemption”
- Non-federally covered products are not preempted
- Preemption is key to avoid a patchwork of state standards
- States have historically regulated non-covered products
- Preemption are increasingly being challenged by states



# Case Study Two: State Efficiency Standards

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- California
  - Sixth largest economy in the world
  - Sixteen climate zones
  - Uses over 270,000 gigawatt-hours of electricity/year
  - Regulatory authorities are delegated to the California Energy Commission (CEC)
  - Title 24 covers buildings
  - Title 20 covers appliances





# Case Study Two: State Efficiency Standards

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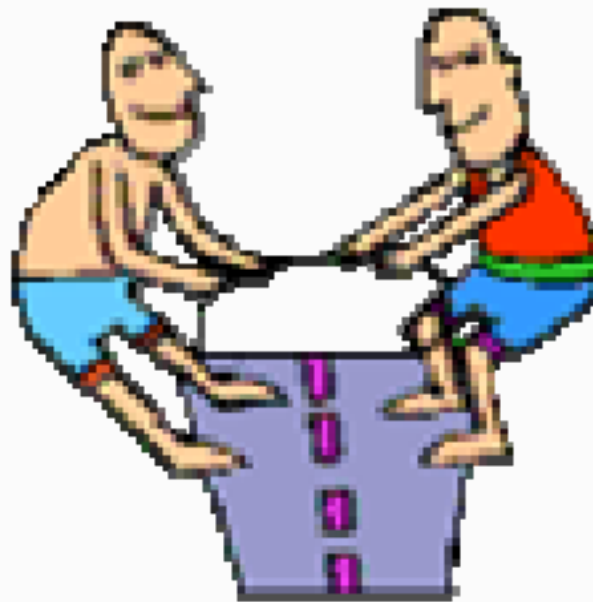
## ■ Peak Demand

- Concerns are in peak demand, not necessarily energy efficiency
- Peak demand growing at 2.4 percent per year
- Equivalent to 3 new 500-megawatt power plants
- Results in rolling blackouts
- Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) is a better descriptor of peak energy usage than SEER



# Case Study Two: State Efficiency Standards

**EER**



**SEER**



# Case Study Two: State Efficiency Standards

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- Legal battle ensued between California and manufacturers
- US Supreme Court's eventual denial to hear the case gave states permission to request data not requested in the federal regulations
- Opened the door for states to promulgate its own regulations



# Case Study Two: State Efficiency Standards

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- Impact on Innovation
  - Optimization for SEER or EER?
  - Design-by-state
  - Design-by-climate
  - Limitations of components
  - Diluted resources



# Conclusions

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- Standards and Regulations dictate much of HVACR product development and innovations
- Some have foster innovations in the past while others have stymied innovation
- Similar circumstances two decades ago with environmental concerns
- Standards and regulations will drive innovation for years to come

