



April 4, 2025

The Honorable Arthur L. Bell
House Majority Office
Room 333, State House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

RE: Support for LD 1158 - An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards

Consumer Reports (CR) writes in support of LD 1158, legislation that would strengthen appliance and water efficiency standards in Maine. This bill would expand the list of appliances required to meet minimum level of energy and water efficiency for household and commercial appliances, providing significant financial savings for consumers and businesses, while encouraging the further development of innovative water- and energy-saving technologies.

Appliance efficiency standards help ensure that the products that consumers and businesses use will require less water and energy to operate, while maintaining performance and improving affordability. By establishing minimum standards for a range of priority appliances as spelled out in LD 1158, Maine can take another major step forward in reducing energy and water use, generating substantial financial savings for consumers and businesses. The efficiency standards apply to over nine commonly used products including gas fireplaces and residential ventilation systems; water-using devices such as water softeners; and commercial equipment such as dishwashers, fryers, and ovens.

By 2050, the proposed Maine appliance efficiency standards are estimated to save \$169 million in utility bill savings statewide, adding to the savings consumers receive when considering existing appliance standards.¹ In addition, the new standards would reduce nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide and CO2 emissions, alleviating air pollution and reducing the need to build expensive new power plants.² These energy and water savings are in the public interest, because of their contribution to protecting the

¹ 2025 Maine Appliance Standards Savings Report, found at: https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/2025_maine_appliance_standards_savings_report.pdf

² Ibid.

environment and public health, and very much in consumers' interest, because of lower lifetime operating costs for products.

The appliance efficiency standards only apply to new products, improving the quality of future choices in the marketplace. The standards do not require consumers or businesses to stop using products they already own, but when it comes time to replace existing appliances and water-using devices, the selection of new models will be more efficient.

These significant savings can be practically and feasibly achieved, while maintaining a wide choice of products for consumers and businesses.

For these reasons, CR strongly supports LD 1158 and urges you to pass this important bill to strengthen appliance and water efficiency standards for Maine consumers and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration,

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