



SIERRA CLUB

MAINE CHAPTER

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To: Committee on Environmental & Natural Resources
From: Matt Cannon, Sierra Club Maine
Date: March 31, 2025
Re: **Testimony in Support of L.D. 1158: *An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards***

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee,

I write on behalf of Sierra Club Maine, representing over 22,000 supporters and members statewide. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club is one of our nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. We work diligently to amplify the power of our 3.8 million members nationwide as we work towards combating climate change and promoting a just and sustainable economy. To that end, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 1158.

Setting efficiency standards ensures that the products we purchase use energy and water more efficiently while preserving quality and affordability. Without these standards, Mainers will end up unnecessarily paying more to run appliances. 13 states have enacted appliance standards since 2018, including Maine which adopted standards for 10 products in 2021. There are 9 remaining recommended standards in this bill.

Adopting these standards will:

- Save consumers and businesses money on utility bills.
- Boost local economies when consumers have more spending money.
- Improve public health and air quality with emissions and pollutant reductions.

Specifically, if the proposed standards are enacted, Maine consumers and businesses would see \$169 million in utility bill savings by 2050. In terms of climate impacts, by 2050, appliance standards could cumulatively save Maine more than 298 gigawatt hours of electricity and 6 trillion BTUs of natural gas, keeping more than 320,000 million metric tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere.¹

Adding these provisions will significantly increase the energy savings achieved by this legislation, and accrue significant fuel savings for households throughout the state. Please pass L.D. 1158.

Sincerely,

Matt Cannon
Sierra Club Maine Chapter
State Conservation & Energy Director

¹ https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/2025_maine_appliance_standards_savings_report.pdf