



April 21, 2025

**RE: LD1158, An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards**  
**Contact: Raagan Wilhelm, Senior Manager – Energy Optimization Policy,**  
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Dear Committee Chair Tepler, and Chair Doudera,

Thank you for considering this testimony in strong support of LD1158, An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards.

We submit this testimony on behalf of Ceres, a nonprofit advocacy organization working with some of the largest businesses and investors in Maine and across the country to accelerate the transition to a cleaner, more just, and resilient world.

Ceres organizes several influential business networks including the [Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network](#) (BICEP) – a coalition of over 80 major businesses, all committed to driving sustainability throughout the economy; and the [Ceres Investor Network](#), a coalition of over 200 members with collectively nearly \$60 trillion in assets under management. Many of the companies in these networks have business interests in Maine such as AO Smith, Eaton, Lutron, and Trane Technologies.

Appliance standards make residential and commercial products more efficient. This saves energy while reducing climate-changing emissions and other environmental impacts associated with the production, distribution, and use of electricity, natural gas, and other fuels. **Appliance standards mitigate the effects of inefficient water usage, lower energy consumption, and improve public health using more efficient appliances. We hope that you prioritize the passage of appliance standards legislation to help achieve the state’s climate and public health goals.**

For consumers, updating appliance standards means more money that can be saved or spent on local goods and services. For businesses, energy savings allow for reinvestment in their facilities and workforce. Currently, federal-level appliance standards are already savings consumers \$529 per year in lower utility bills.<sup>1</sup> Adopting state-level efficiency standards would add even more savings, further reducing energy waste and lowering consumer utility bills.

According to analysis from the Appliance Standard Awareness Project (ASAP), adopting the standards proposed in LD1158 will save Maine an estimated \$69 million annually,

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<sup>1</sup>From the 2017 ASAP/ACEEE white paper, [Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards.](#)

and \$155 million by 2050.<sup>2</sup> These savings would be seen across Maine, keeping dollars in consumer's pockets and available for spending in local economies.

Ceres will continue to support federal action to update standards and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis. In the interim, states have historically led the nation in the development of new appliance standards and should continue to pursue ambitious proposals. Since 2018, 13 states have passed updated appliance standards including the 10 product standards adopted by Maine in 2021. It is crucial that Maine pass similar updates to our appliance standards to ensure that residents and businesses are not saddled with less efficient appliances that are unable to be sold in other regions.

When comparing the more energy efficient appliance mentioned in LD1158 to the less energy efficient models currently found on the store shelves, the purchase price difference is negligible. This means that businesses and consumers will start saving money from day one and that consumers will have plenty of product choices as products that meet the proposed standards are already readily available from multiple manufacturers.

For these reasons, Ceres urges the Legislature to pass LD1158 to keep moving Maine toward a cleaner energy future, ultimately saving residents and businesses alike money, and promoting greater public health.

Sincerely,

Raagan Wilhelm  
Senior Manager, Energy Optimization Policy

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<sup>2</sup> [https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2025 Maine Appliance Standards Savings Report amended bill.pdf](https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2025%20Maine%20Appliance%20Standards%20Savings%20Report%20amended%20bill.pdf)

