



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Art Bell, before the Environment & Natural Resources Committee, introducing LD 1158 ***"An Act to Expand Appliance Energy & Water Standards"***.

Good morning, Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished colleagues of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee. My name is Art Bell, and I represent House District #103, Yarmouth.

LD 1158 is a close copy of LD 940 that was passed by this committee back in 2021. That bill granted the Department of Environmental Protection authority to adopt efficiency standards for 10 designated products. The bill before you today simply seeks to expand that list to additional products for which other states have been adopting standards.

At its heart this bill is about efficiency: efficient use of dollars spent on electricity, gas and water. This bill will save Maine ratepayers approximately \$3 million annually in 2030, and up to \$9 million annually in 2040. These are dollars which will stay in the Maine economy. This bill is taking money out of the hands of utility companies and putting it back in the hands of our citizens.

There are 13 other states that have passed efficiency standards on products in recent years, including, as noted, Maine in 2021, and also in our region Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey. The efficiency standards states have been adopting are most often based on the ***Energy Star*** program, or industry developed specifications, and that is the expectation for the products in this bill as well. So essentially this bill just means the products listed would need to meet the ***Energy Star*** level in order to be sold in Maine.

Additionally, one key point to highlight is no used products or their sales are affected by this bill. All currently owned products may be used and repaired for as long as the owner likes. Products do not need to be proactively changed out and existing products are not affected by this bill in any way. We only address the sale and installation of new products.

To reiterate, this is a bill about efficiency: efficient use of dollars, and efficient use of resources. As we all know, the cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. We have the products on the market to make this happen. These products will save us money. It is time we take advantage of this opportunity in Maine.