



# Maine Conservation Voters

*Inform. Vote. Protect.*

## **Testimony in support of LD1158, *An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards***

**April 7, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Cathy Breen. I am the Director of Government Affairs at Maine Conservation Voters (MCV), a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters that is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I'm speaking in opposition to **LD1158, *An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards***.

MCV's support for bill rests on two important priorities:

1. Meet the goals of Maine's Climate Action plan, *Maine Won't Wait 2.0*, by decreasing the use of fossil fuels and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Help reduce the relatively high energy burden<sup>1</sup> that Maine families and businesses are managing as a result of high natural gas prices.

Maine businesses and residents are spending more money than necessary running appliances in their homes and workplaces. Setting efficiency standards ensures that the products we purchase use energy and water more efficiently while preserving quality and affordability. In 2021, Maine joined 12 other states in enacting appliance standards, applying standards to 10 types of appliances.<sup>2</sup> LD1158 proposes to add 9 additional appliances to Maine's efficiency standards. To be clear, homeowners and businesses do not have to replace any existing appliances to comply with this law. Rather, this standard simply sets a floor for the efficiency that buyers can expect when they purchase new appliances. Without these standards, Maine risks becoming a dumping ground for inefficient products that waste electricity.

This bill will help Maine families and businesses reduce energy waste and save money over the life of the appliances. If the proposed standards are enacted, Maine consumers and businesses would see \$169 million in utility bill reduction by 2050. You can see how Maine will benefit on the charts I've attached.

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<sup>1</sup> "Energy burden" is defined as the percentage of household income spent on energy costs

<sup>2</sup> <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec1616.html>

Increasing efficiency in our appliances will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions because Maine gets 30% of our electricity from natural gas.<sup>3</sup> According to Appliance Standards Awareness Project, 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. So this bill will help Maine inch ever closer to our clean energy goals.

This bill is a win-win for Maine's climate and for Maine electricity consumers. I urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD1158. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=ME>