



## Maine Conservation Voters

*Inform. Vote. Protect.*

### Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters Supporting LD 940

*An Act to Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards*  
Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
March 29, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and esteemed members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Beth Ahearn and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Maine Conservation Voters. Maine Conservation Voters is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to make conservation a political priority.

We support LD 940 because appliance standards are a win-win. They reduce harmful air pollution and energy consumption, produce significant cost savings for consumers, and are relatively easy to implement. If Maine is to reach the established goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, a goal widely approved by this committee last year (in the Climate Council bill), we have to take action in every aspect of energy usage. Not only do we need to transition to renewable energy, we need to use less energy, and use it more efficiently. Making our buildings, our vehicles, and our appliances and products more energy efficient will play an important role in reaching our goal.

There is evidence that these standards work. Federal appliance standards have been very successful and have enjoyed bipartisan support. President Reagan signed the first federal appliance standards into law in 1987 and the U.S. Department of Energy set energy efficiency standards for more than 60 categories of products ranging from light bulbs and common household appliances, like clothes washers and refrigerators, to commercial equipment such as boilers. These minimum federal energy consumption standards already save the average U.S. household

\$500 a year in energy costs and in Maine those savings have been calculated at \$530 a year. (See Appliance Standards Awareness Project report, attached).

Efficiency standards are important for every consumer in the country and are especially beneficial for renters, who tend to pay their own energy bills but do not have any decision making power over the appliances in their homes or apartments. Appliance standards also benefit consumers on fixed incomes who spend a disproportionately high percentage of their income on energy costs.

LD 940 would create state efficiency standards for appliances and products *not* included in federal standards, with the goal of saving Mainers more money and further reducing energy use. Maine would not be alone in enacting such standards; several other states have done so and these standards would be similar. The Department of Environmental Protection and Efficiency Maine were consulted in the drafting of this legislation and are equipped to implement these standards.

Please vote “ought to pass” on this important energy and cost saving legislation.



# Appliance Efficiency Standards in Maine

Maine businesses and residents are spending more money than necessary on running appliances and lighting in homes and places of work. Setting efficiency standards ensures that the products we purchase use energy more efficiently while preserving quality and affordability.



Energy savings



Utility Bill Savings



Emissions Reductions

## The basics of efficiency standards

- Set a minimum level of energy efficiency for certain household and commercial products
- Create utility bill savings for consumers and businesses
- Reduce carbon emissions and other air pollutants

## Efficiency standards can bring huge benefits to Maine

- **Affordability:** Consumers and businesses save money on utility bills, protecting customers from energy waste
- **Jobs:** Local economies get a boost when consumers have more spending money
- **Clean energy:** Public health and air quality improve when emissions and pollutants are cut

## States are acting on efficiency standards

- Colorado, DC, Hawaii, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington have all recently enacted appliance standards
- In the northeast, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island have filed appliance standards bills in 2021
- Maine should not be left behind

## Residents and businesses save money

If new efficiency standards are enacted in 2021, Maine consumers would see **\$9 million in utility bill savings per year** by 2025. These savings would grow to **\$36 million annually by 2035**.

## Energy Reductions



By 2025, appliance standards would save 24 gigawatt hours of electricity (equivalent to the electricity consumption of 3,000 Maine homes) and 87 billion Btu (equivalent to the gas consumption of 15,000 Maine homes).

*The best energy-saving policy  
you've never heard of*

## ENERGY, WATER, AND POLLUTION SAVINGS

	Potential annual savings in 2025						Potential annual savings in 2035					
	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (BBtu)	Water (million gallons)	NO <sub>x</sub> (tons)	SO <sub>2</sub> (tons)	CO <sub>2</sub> (thous. MT)	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (BBtu)	Water (million gallons)	NO <sub>x</sub> (tons)	SO <sub>2</sub> (tons)	CO <sub>2</sub> (thous. MT)
Commercial hot-food holding cabinets	1.2	--	--	0.2	0.1	0.2	5.6	--	--	0.9	0.4	0.4
Faucets	3.6	46	152	2.7	0.2	2.8	14.3	182	601	10.5	1.0	10.7
General service lamps (state-regulated)	7.9	--	--	1.3	0.6	0.7	14.4	--	--	2.2	1.0	1.1
Portable electric spas	7.1	--	--	1.2	0.5	0.7	23.0	--	--	3.5	1.6	1.7
Showerheads	3.3	41	93	2.4	0.2	2.5	13.1	165	373	9.5	0.9	9.7
Spray sprinkler bodies	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Toilets (water closets)	--	--	43	--	--	--	--	--	211	--	--	--
Urinals	--	--	8	--	--	--	--	--	39	--	--	--
Water coolers	1.3	--	--	0.2	0.1	0.2	5.0	--	--	0.8	0.3	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>24</b>

Assuming a compliance date of 2023 for all the recommended standards. Totals may not sum due to rounding. While we continue to recommend the adoption of state-level standards for computers and computer monitors, we have not estimated savings for these products due to a lack of data on the current market.

## UTILITY BILL SAVINGS AND PAYBACK PERIODS

	Potential annual utility bill savings (million 2019\$)		Net present value savings (million 2019\$)	Benefit-cost ratio	Payback period (years)
	In 2025	In 2035			
Commercial hot-food holding cabinets	0.2	0.8	2.9	2.3	4.2
Faucets	3.2	14.0	92.5	no cost	0.0
General service lamps (state-regulated)	1.4	2.7	28.0	no cost**	0.4
Portable electric spas	1.3	4.3	26.7	13.2	0.5
Showerheads	2.4	10.3	68.2	no cost	0.0
Spray sprinkler bodies	--	--	--	--	--
Toilets (water closets)	0.5	2.9	26.6	no cost	0.0
Urinals	0.1	0.5	3.5	no cost	0.0
Water coolers	0.2	0.7	4.8	no cost	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>--</b>

Assuming a compliance date of 2023 for all the recommended standards. Net present value savings take into account both utility bill savings and estimated impacts on product costs for items sold between 2023 and 2035. Totals may not sum due to rounding. The total benefit-cost ratio is calculated as the present value of the total utility bill savings from products sold through 2035 for the package of recommended standards divided by the present value of the total additional costs. While we continue to recommend the adoption of state-level standards for computers and computer monitors, we have not estimated savings for these products due to a lack of data on the current market.

\*\*While LEDs are generally more expensive to purchase than incandescent light bulbs, the significantly longer lifetime of LEDs means that over time, consumers actually save money on bulbs in addition to saving money on electricity bills.



### Why state standards?

States have historically led the nation in the development of new efficiency standards for residential and commercial products. Over time efficiency standards develop into national standards. By setting state efficiency standards, Maine can help accelerate the adoption of energy saving products across the region and country.

### Do I have to replace my current products?

No. Efficiency standards merely raise the floor for products available for new purchases and do not require changing out of products currently in use. The recommended standards are set to ensure consumers and businesses will have numerous choices of qualifying products to purchase.