



**Testimony in Support of LD 940, An Act to Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards
by David Costello, Climate & Clean Energy Program Director
March 29, 2021**

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is David Costello. I am the Climate and Clean Energy Program Director at the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), and I am testifying today in support of LD 940, An Act to Act to Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards.

Reducing Building Sector Greenhouse Gas Emissions Critical

Reducing Maine's second largest source of carbon pollution, residential and commercial buildings, will require the State to dramatically scale up its incentives and funding for energy efficiency improvements and facilitate a significant increase in the availability of private sector financing. It will also require the tightening of appliance, lighting, and space-and water-heating systems standards and the implementation of stricter building codes.

Establishing Efficiency Standards Is One of the Most Cost-effective Ways of Reducing Energy and Water Usage and Costs, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

LD 940 will aid in reducing Maine's energy and water usage and greenhouse gas emissions by establishing stronger efficiency standards for certain residential and commercial appliances and plumbing and lighting products. It will accomplish this by aligning Maine's appliance and product performance requirements with nation-leading efficiency regulations already in use in California. States, like California, typically lead the nation in establishing such standards. In adopting similar requirements, Maine will help in accelerating the acceptance and implementation of constructive energy and water use standards across the country.

Additionally, in setting these requirements, Maine households and businesses will not only aid in achieving a marked reduction in the State's carbon and other pollutants but will also benefit from an improvement in the usefulness of the covered appliances and from a reduction in utility bills.

Maine Residents and Businesses Will Save Money

It is estimated that Maine households and businesses could realize \$9 million in utility bill savings per year by 2025 and \$36 million annually by 2035. Savings that are likely to be expended elsewhere in Maine, providing added economic benefits to local businesses and communities.

Additionally, it is worth noting that Maine's new efficiency standards would apply only to new products. No one would be required to replace an existing less efficient appliance.

For these reasons we urge the Committee to join NRCM in supporting this important efficiency initiative. Thank you for your consideration, and I welcome any questions that you may have.