



Feb. 27, 2024

Chair Wilson  
Vice-Chair Crosby

**RE: HB 747 – Products that Contain Mercury – Fluorescent Lamps - Prohibition (“Clean Lighting”)**

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). We are a project of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) dedicated to advancing cost-effective appliance and lighting standards at both the national and state level.

In 2022, ASAP and ACEEE published a joint report - *Farewell to Fluorescents: How a Phaseout Can Cut Mercury Pollution, Protect the Climate, and Save Money* – detailing research findings that Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) are ready to widely replace fluorescent light bulbs.<sup>1</sup> We also published analysis showing savings states could see from transitioning common fluorescent light bulbs to LEDs, which can be found at the end of these comments. We would be happy to provide additional information about this analysis or answer any questions.

**HB 747 WOULD SAVE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES MONEY, HAVE VERY FAST PAYBACKS**

HB 747 would transition off the sales of common fluorescent light bulbs, allowing LEDs to take their place. Because LEDs are twice as energy efficient as fluorescents, they generate significant electricity bill savings. ASAP estimates by 2030 Maryland would see \$51 million in annual, statewide electricity bill savings due to transitioning from fluorescents to LEDs. By 2050 this would result in cumulative savings of \$759 million statewide on electricity bills.

Additionally, the majority of fluorescent light bulb sales today are for commercial buildings. ASAP estimates for the most common fluorescent light bulb type, the 4-foot T8, the commercial sector would see a payback period of less than one month. Each 4-foot T8 LED would then go on to save \$24 per bulb over its lifetime, resulting in significant electricity bill savings.

**HB 747 WOULD AVOID TOXIC MERCURY POLLUTION, SAVE ENERGY, AND AVOID GREENHOUSE GASES**

All fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury, a potent neurotoxin that threatens human health and the environment. When fluorescent bulbs are accidentally broken—whether in homes, businesses, or the waste management system—they present a health hazard to those nearby. LEDs do not contain mercury, therefore transitioning away from fluorescents would avoid a source of mercury pollution coming into Maryland. ASAP estimates by 2050 Maryland would cumulatively avoid 159 pounds of mercury waste, enough to contaminate 7.9 billion gallons of water.

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<sup>1</sup> For the 2022 ASAP/ACEEE report and state savings analysis visit <https://appliance-standards.org/clean-lighting>

Furthermore, LEDs increased energy efficiency means the state would see reduced energy consumption and thereby also avoid greenhouse gas emissions. ASAP estimates in 2030 Maryland would see annual savings of 469 gigawatt hours of electricity. From this, by 2050 Maryland could cumulatively avoid the release of 1.38 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, the equivalent of 307,759 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year.

### **LEDs ARE READY TO REPLACE COMMON FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS**

LEDs have advanced tremendously over the last 10 years. Our lighting market research found that today LEDs are widely available and cost effective as replacements for general-purpose, white light fluorescent light bulbs across the different sizes and shapes. General-purpose, white light bulbs are most commonly found in office building settings or in certain residential situations like a kitchen or basement (see Figure 1). LEDs were found to produce the same or better light quality, last 2-3 times longer, have positive economic outcomes for consumers, and not contain mercury compared to their general-purpose fluorescent counterpart. HB 747 only proposes to transition out these types of fluorescents and would not cover specialty fluorescents, such as ultraviolet (UV) fluorescents used for tanning booths or other specialty purposes.



**Figure 1.** General-purpose, white light fluorescent light bulbs.

### **HB 747 IS A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACHIEVE STATE GOALS**

Transitioning away from fluorescent light bulbs to LEDs is a low-cost way for Maryland to cut energy waste, reduce electricity bills, and reduce greenhouse gases – helping the state meet its clean energy, energy efficiency, and affordability goals.

We would be happy to provide further information, answer questions, or provide technical assistance.

Sincerely,



Josh McClenney, State Policy Associate  
Appliance Standards Awareness Project



**Appliance Standards Awareness Project**  
**2024 State Clean Lighting**  
**Savings estimates for: Maryland**

State	Potential annual reductions in 2030			Potential annual electricity savings in 2030 (GWh)	Potential annual electricity bill savings in 2030 (million 2022\$)
	Mercury in lamps shipped (lbs)	Power plant mercury emissions (lbs)	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (thous. MT)		
Maryland	17.0	0.48	97	469	51

Assuming a compliance date of July 1, 2026 for linear fluorescent lightbulbs and compact fluorescent lightbulbs.

State	Potential cumulative reductions through 2050			Cumulative electricity savings through 2050 (GWh)	Cumulative electricity bill savings through 2050 (million 2022\$)
	Mercury in lamps shipped (lbs)	Power plant mercury emissions (lbs)	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (thous. MT)		
Maryland	159	6.8	1,383	6,725	759

Assuming a compliance date of July 1, 2026 for linear fluorescent lightbulbs and compact fluorescent lightbulbs.

**Fluorescent vs. LED: Economic analysis for most-shipped lamps (commercial sector)**

Fluorescent lamp type	LED incremental cost (2022\$)	First-year electricity bill savings from LED (2022\$)	Life-cycle cost savings from LED (2022\$)	Payback period (years)
4-foot T12 – 40 W	2.16	8.61	39	0.3
4-foot T12 – 34 W	3.32	6.19	31	0.5
4-foot T8	0.11	4.19	24	0.03
4-foot T5	1.45	5.55	34	0.3
4-foot T5 high output	3.95	11.02	65	0.4
Pin-based CFL	2.14	6.89	20	0.3