



March 30, 2021

Dear Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

As businesses, trade associations, consumer advocates, and healthcare systems supportive of climate leadership, we write to support an update to the state's appliance efficiency standards this legislative session.

Considered the "best energy, water, climate policy you've never heard of," appliance efficiency standards work by removing the least efficient options from the market. As Maryland considers legislative proposals to rebuild the local economy and address the impacts of climate change this session, we hope that you prioritize the passage of appliance standards legislation that will eliminate energy waste, save consumers and businesses money, conserve water, and reduce greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

Appliance standards make residential and commercial products more efficient. This saves energy, which reduces climate-changing emissions and other environmental impacts associated with the production, distribution, and use of electricity, natural gas, and other fuels. It also mitigates the effects of short- and long-term droughts by helping to conserve fresh water supplies.

In addition to these climate benefits, more efficient appliances reduce consumer and business energy costs. For consumers, this means more money that can be saved or spent on local goods and services. For businesses, energy savings allow for reinvestment in their facilities and workforce.

We support federal action to update standards and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis. In the interim, states have historically led the nation in the development of new appliance standards and should continue to pursue ambitious proposals. Since 2017, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Vermont, Washington, and Washington, DC, have updated their standards on a bipartisan basis. This year, 13 states are considering legislation to update their standards, and Maryland has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership.

At a time when state budgets, economic well-being, and public health are threatened due to the COVID-19 pandemic, legislative leaders and advocates can drive climate action and save families and businesses money by updating appliance efficiency standards. This is a low-cost, high-impact legislative proposal perfect for this precarious moment.

¹* The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance's support is for the portable electric spa provision of the legislation only

We strongly support the adoption of the most up to date standards for appliance efficiency.

Sincerely,

Center for Economic Justice

Consumer Action

Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Reports

Cree Lighting

Green Energy Consumers Alliance

Healthcare Without Harm

Maryland PIRG

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)

National Consumer Law Center — *on behalf of its low-income clients*

Performance Systems Development

Pool & Hot Tub Alliance — *in support of the portable electric spa provision of the legislation only*

Schneider Electric

Sealed