



Representative Dereck Davis, Chair
Representative Kathleen Dumais, Vice-Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland General Assembly

March 30, 2021

Dear Rep. Dereck Davis, Rep. Kathleen Dumais, and Members of the
Committee,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a leading environmental advocacy organization, and its more than 3 million members and activists, including approximately 10,800 Maryland residents, we offer our strong support for SB0418, concerning energy and water efficiency standards.

Stronger energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment are a common-sense way to use less energy while maintaining the same – or better – performance. The standards in this bill will save Maryland residents more than \$70 million annually and will grow to \$330 million in annual savings by 2035, which is money that can be reinvested into Maryland’s local economy and encourage job creation. Of these standards, seven have no incremental cost so consumers and businesses will begin saving money right away. The remaining four standards have a payback period of one year or less.

These standards will not only help Maryland consumers and businesses save on their utility bills, but they will also offer public health benefits through reduced emissions of carbon dioxide and other harmful pollutants. Cutting down on carbon will additionally help Maryland to meet Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act goals. Enacting the standards in this bill lead the state to annually reduce its electricity consumption of 10,000 average households and reduce carbon emissions by an amount equivalent of annually taking 12,000 cars off the road for a year.

However, if new standards are not enacted in 2021 Maryland consumers and

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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businesses will lose out on \$70 million savings each year. This bill does not require consumers and businesses to replace the products they're currently using; these standards merely raise the bar for new appliances. Efficiency standards ensure that the new products we purchase consume less energy and water while still preserving quality and affordability. Consumers and businesses have nothing to lose and will benefit immensely through lower utility bills.

We encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lauren Urbanek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Urbanek
Senior Energy Policy Advocate
Climate and Clean Energy Program