

February 1, 2021

Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State House, Annapolis MD

RE: SB0418 Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) regarding SB0418. **ASAP supports SB0418 as amended.**

ASAP is a coalition project that includes representatives from energy efficiency, consumer and environmental advocacy groups, state government, and utilities. ASAP works to advance cost-effective appliance standards at both the national and state level.

Our organization, along with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), published a report on state appliance standards entitled: *States Go First: How States Can Save Consumers Money, Reduce Energy and Water Waste, and Protect the Environment with New Appliance Standards*¹. We also published state savings analyses which we update annually. We would be happy to provide additional information about the products, standards, and analysis as requested.

Appliance standards have been called the best climate and energy policy that you've never heard of because of their strong impact and low profile. Most people are unaware that federal efficiency standards are already saving Maryland consumers and businesses \$522 a year in lower utility bills.² Adopting the state efficiency standards in SB0418 would add to the savings and further reduce energy and water waste and lower consumer utility bills.

FACTS ABOUT STANDARDS IN SB4180; The standards included in the bill are:

- **Very cost effective to buyers and users** – Most of the products in the bill have NO incremental cost so consumers start saving right away. For others, utility bill savings pay back the incremental cost of products meeting the standards within one year.
- **Readily available** – Products and technologies meeting the standards are readily available today from multiple manufacturers.
- **Provide significant energy savings statewide** – the standards make a meaningful contribution to meeting the state's energy, water, and climate needs.

MARYLAND HAS A HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP ON APPLIANCE STANDARDS

In 2004, and again in 2007 (with Senator Pinsky as sponsor), Maryland was one of the first states after California to adopt efficiency standards for about 15 products. Most of the products in those bills

¹ 2017 ASAP/ACEEE report: [*States Go First: How States Can Save consumers Money, Reduce Energy and Water Waste, and Protect the Environment with New Appliance Standards.*](#)

² From the 2017 ASAP/ACEEE White Paper, [*Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards.*](#)

became part of national standards legislation in 2007, leading to massive energy and dollar savings and CO₂ reductions nationwide. We are currently at a critical point where states can have a big impact, particularly with the U.S. Department of Energy playing catch-up on federal standards after years of delays and rollbacks. Maryland can take the lead in the mid-Atlantic region with this latest package of state standards.

OTHER STATES ARE ACTING; MARYLAND MAY BE LEFT BEHIND.

While Maryland has a strong history of acting on appliance standards, it could potentially be left behind as other states act. Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New York, Vermont, Washington, and Washington D.C. have adopted appliance standards. Regionally, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have either filed or plan to file efficiency standards bills in 2021.

SB0418 WOULD SAVE MONEY, ENERGY, AND WATER AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

The bill would set minimum energy and water efficiency standards for 11 common household and commercial appliances. If adopted, the standards could save Maryland residents and businesses more than \$70 million on utility bills in 2025. As more and more consumers purchase products compliant with state efficiency standards, annual savings would grow, reaching nearly \$330 million in 2035.³ In 2025, standards would save enough electricity in that one year to power 10,000 households and reduce CO₂ emissions by 55,000 metric tons or the equivalent of taking 12,000 cars off the road for a year.

STANDARDS ARE A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACHIEVE STATE GOALS

Adopting efficiency standards is a low-cost way for Maryland to cut energy and water waste, reduce utility bills and reduce greenhouse gases – the latter helping Maryland meet their Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Act goals.

We would be happy to provide further information, answer questions about appliance standards, or provide technical assistance should such need arise.

Sincerely,



Marianne DiMascio, State Policy Manager
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

³ Ibid.