

February 14, 2022

Honorable Chair Senator Pinsky  
Honorable Vice-Chair Senator Kagan  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland State House, Annapolis MD

**RE: SUPPORT for SB494, Energy and Water Efficiency Standards**

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) regarding SB494. **ASAP supports SB494 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 *States Go First*: a 2017 report on state appliance standards which forms the basis for many of the product standards in this bill<sup>1</sup>. We also update and publish state-by-state savings analyses 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 over \$500 a year in lower utility bills.<sup>2</sup> Adopting the state efficiency standards in SB494 would add to the savings and further reduce energy and water waste and lower consumer utility bills.

**FACTS ABOUT STANDARDS IN SB494:** 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 example, a consumer purchasing an air purifier meeting the standards compared to one that does not would start saving right away – about \$30 a year or \$270 over the life of the product.
- **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.

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

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



### **SB494 WOULD SAVE MONEY, ENERGY, AND WATER AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES**

The bill would set minimum energy and water efficiency standards for 13 common household and commercial appliances. If adopted, the standards could save Maryland residents and businesses more than \$200 million on utility bills in 2030. As more and more consumers purchase products compliant with state efficiency standards, annual savings would grow, reaching nearly \$350 million in 2040.<sup>3</sup> In 2030, standards would save enough electricity in that one year to power 31,000 households and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 125,000 metric tons or the equivalent of taking 27,000 cars off the road for a year.

### **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 became part of national standards legislation in 2007, leading to massive energy and dollar savings and CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

### **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. Nationwide, 12 states have adopted standards including seven states in the northeast and mid-Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington D.C.

### **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.

### **COMPLIANCE DATE NEARLY TWO YEARS AWAY**

If adopted, the standards will go into effect on January 1, 2024. Distributors and retailers will have more than 18 months to sell noncompliant products before the standards take effect.

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

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<sup>3</sup> <https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/Maryland%20savings%20products%20in%202022%20bill.pdf>.