

February 15, 2022

**Testimony of Bryan Howard**  
**Director, State Policy, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy**  
**Before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**RE: Support of Senate Bill 0494, Maryland Energy Administration-Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations**

Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), I write in support of Senate Bill 0494 (SB 494), An Act concerning Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations. ACEEE is a nonprofit research organization based in Washington, D.C. that conducts research and analysis on energy efficiency. We have been active on energy efficiency issues at the national, state, and local level for over four decades, collecting extensive best-practice information on topics including energy efficiency programs and standards.

SB 494 would set minimum energy and water efficiency standards for 11 common household and commercial appliances such as residential ventilating fans, commercial dishwashers and steam cookers, and showerheads. Most people are unaware that federal efficiency standards are already saving Maryland consumers and businesses around **\$520 a year** in lower utility bills.<sup>1</sup> Adopting state-level standards, proposed in SB 494, could result in utility bill savings of more than **\$200 million** annually by 2030, adding dollars to consumers' pockets and spurring job creation for Maryland's economy.<sup>2</sup> State appliance standards will not only improve public health and air quality but also reduce emissions that can help the state achieve its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act goals. By 2030, the proposed standards would reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 125,000 metric tons.<sup>3</sup>

ACEEE closely tracks efficiency policies in our *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. In 2020, Maryland ranked sixth in the *Scorecard*, but was not recognized for state appliance efficiency standards.<sup>4</sup> This inaction is noteworthy when a growing number of states have moved to codify or update state appliance standards. Indeed, the last year has been one of the most active years in recent history for state appliance standards. Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia adopted energy- and water-saving standards for a variety of appliances closely resembling those in SB 494.<sup>5</sup> Keeping efficiency standards current will help Maryland keep pace as a national leader on energy efficiency while also supporting actions needed to reductions emissions.

We urge you to support SB 494. Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> From the 2017 ASAP/ACEEE White Paper, [Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards](#).

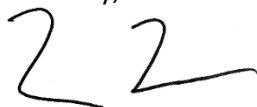
<sup>2</sup> Appliance Standards Awareness Project, 2022 State Appliance Standards Recommendations Savings estimates for: Maryland available at: <https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/Maryland%20savings%20products%20in%202022%20bill.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> IBID

<sup>4</sup> Berg, W., S. Vaidyanathan, B. Jennings, E. Cooper, C. Perry, M. DiMascio, and J. Singletary. 2020. *The 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. Washington, DC: ACEEE. [aceee.org/research-report/u2011](http://aceee.org/research-report/u2011).

<sup>5</sup> Berg, W., E. Cooper, and M. DiMascio. 2022. *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard: 2021 Progress Report*. Washington, DC: ACEEE. [aceee.org/research-report/u2201](http://aceee.org/research-report/u2201).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Bryan Howard' written in a cursive, stylized font.

Bryan Howard  
Director, State Policy  
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy