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Efficient Appliances for People & the Planet

HB1021- Environment – Products That Contain Mercury - Fluorescent Lamps - Prohibition
Economic Matters
March 8, 2023
Position: Favorable

My name is Ari Reeves. I am a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, testifying on behalf of my employer, CLASP. We strongly support HB1021, which would prohibit the sale and distribution of fluorescent lamps in the state.

I am the Senior Director of Research for CLASP, an international not-for-profit organization focused on making appliances, lighting, and other electrical equipment better for people and the planet. We work with policymakers in countries around the world to help them adopt appliance-focused policies that will cut energy costs, reduce climate emissions, and improve human health and the environment. CLASP supports HB1021 because it will do all of these things.

Since 2021, CLASP has led a global campaign focused on eliminating mercury-containing fluorescent lighting from the market. Fluorescent lamps were introduced as an energy-efficient alternative to incandescent and halogen lamps, and the risks associated with mercury in fluorescent lamps were tolerated as a necessary tradeoff. But now, with LED lighting of all shapes, sizes, and types widely available around the world, fluorescent lighting is an obsolete technology.

Last year, more than 137 countries, including the United States, came together under the Minamata Convention and agreed to begin phasing out fluorescent lighting. They reviewed the evidence and understood that the public health, environmental, and economic benefits of doing so would be enormous.

Now legislation like HB1021 is needed to take action at the state level. Maryland can and should act now to ban the sale of fluorescent lighting within the state and protect the people of Maryland from the toxic mercury pollution caused by this antiquated technology.

Thank you for voting in support of HB1021.

Sincerely,

Ari B. Reeves
Senior Director of Research
CLASP