

Flora Cardoni, PennEnvironment Field Director

November, 14 2023

Public Testimony for the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee

Good morning. I'd like to start out by thanking Chairman Matzie, Chairman Marshall, Rich Pronesti, and all of the members of the House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee for allowing me to testify at today's hearing on the important topic of energy and water conservation, and House Bill 1615. My name is Flora Cardoni, I'm the Field Director with PennEnvironment. PennEnvironment is a statewide, citizen-based environmental nonprofit group dedicated to ensuring that all Pennsylvanians have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, protected public lands to enjoy, and a safe and livable climate to call home.

I'm here today to speak in support of House Bill 1615, Representative Jennifer O'Mara and Thomas Mehaffie's legislation to set energy efficiency and water conservation standards for a set of 15 commonly used appliances sold in Pennsylvania.

The bill works by setting minimum energy efficiency and water conservation standards for the sale of new appliances sold in the state, for these 15 appliances, so that they don't use more energy or water than necessary.

I would like to start off by giving you a sense of the big picture benefits that passing this policy could deliver for Pennsylvanians. First I'm going to talk about the data on air pollution benefits. Then I'll go over the expected water savings. Lastly, I'll give you a sense of what ratepayers will save in their utility bills and why this bill would be so beneficial to consumers.

First, let me start out with the expected reductions in air pollution if we could implement these energy efficiency standards. Research shows that adopting statewide appliance standards helps reduce harmful air and climate pollution from entering our atmosphere, helping to protect our health and tackle climate change at the same time. That's because the cleanest energy is the energy you don't need to use in the first place. If implemented into law, the efficiency standards in House Bill 1615 are expected to dramatically slash emissions of harmful air pollutants that cause asthma and other respiratory ailments. For example, nitrogen oxide pollution would be expected to be reduced by 217 tons a year by 2030, and sulfur dioxide reductions are estimated to reach 105 tons a year by 2030. Reducing this pollution will be a huge benefit for the more than one million Pennsylvanians who suffer from asthma.¹

The standards in House Bill 1615 are also expected to cut carbon dioxide emissions in Pennsylvania by over 384,000 tons by 2030 -- that's equal to taking over 85,000 gas-powered cars off the road. This is a simple and commonsense policy to help reduce Pennsylvania's carbon footprint and help tackle climate change.

¹ ["Most Recent Asthma State or Territory Data,"](#) CDC, May 10, 2023

Another significant benefit of appliance efficiency standards is water savings. Sadly, we often don't think about conserving water until it's too late. This hit home this summer when the entire state was placed under a drought watch, with 15 counties still remaining in a drought watch or warning today.² Conserving water can and should be on our minds year in and year out and these standards would be a big step forward. It's estimated that the standards proposed in HB 1615 would reduce water use by nearly 10 BILLION gallons annually, by 2030. By 2040, these appliance efficiency standards would save more than 18 billion gallons of water- enough water to meet the needs of nearly 340,000 Pennsylvania households.

Finally, cutting energy waste will also help to save money for Pennsylvania ratepayers. By 2030, the proposed water and energy efficiency standards in House Bill 1615 are projected to save Pennsylvania residents and businesses an incredible **\$294 million each year**, and then reach a whopping **\$600 million per year in reductions by 2040**. As rising utility costs continue to hit Pennsylvania families, we need to tackle this problem from every angle—and that includes making sure that our appliances are as efficient as possible so that we're not wasting and paying for energy we don't need to be using in the first place.

You can see all of the data for these projected savings in your packets. But the bottom line is that conserving energy is good for our environment, our health, and for consumers. And House Bill 1615 will help achieve these savings for Pennsylvania residents and businesses.

While all of these benefits are huge, the legislation itself is fairly seamless. There are two very important points I want to make about the implementation of this legislation. First, once the law goes into effect, it will only apply to **new** appliances being sold in the commonwealth –it will not require consumers or businesses to change out appliances that they already have. It doesn't make the less efficient appliances illegal to use in Pennsylvania, nor would it be illegal to buy or sell used appliances. It just halts the sale of the inefficient versions of new appliances. Second, I want to emphasize that all of the efficient appliances in HB 1615 are already on the market, competitively priced, and available to Pennsylvania consumers and businesses today.

Finally, I want to emphasize that Representative O'Mara's legislation to set appliance efficiency standards is modeled after successful legislation already implemented in other states. In fact, since 2018, thirteen other states have adopted efficiency standards for appliances. Their states' residents are already reaping the benefits of more energy efficient appliances, and Pennsylvania should be the next state to do so.

Setting appliance efficiency standards is a common sense policy with a big impact. After all, we shouldn't keep using products that expend more energy and water than they need to. Passing this bill would help the Commonwealth reduce energy waste, save water, lower air pollution, and save consumers millions of dollars on their utility bills, benefiting all Pennsylvanians.

Dozens of organizations have joined PennEnvironment in voicing support for this commonsense policy, including Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Green Building Alliance,

² ["Drought Information,"](#) PA DEP, last accessed November 7, 2023.

Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (or KEEA), Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania, the Public Utility Law Center, Clean Air Council, Clean Water Action, PennFuture, CVPA, Sierra Club and more. This letter is included in your packet. And it's not just these groups—polling shows that 83% of registered voters across parties support setting stronger efficiency standards for appliances as well.³

Given all of the benefits of this bill and the widespread support for this policy, PennEnvironment supports HB 1615 and hopes that this committee will bring up and pass this important legislation.

Thank you.

³ Anthony Leiserowitz, "[Politics and Global Warming](#)," Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, January 14, 2021.

November 7, 2023

RE: HB 1615 – Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

Dear Chairman Matzie, Chairman Marshall, and Members of the House Consumer Protection, Technology, & Utilities Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) regarding HB 1615. ASAP is a project of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and works to advance cost-effective appliance standards at the national and state level.

Appliance efficiency standards have been called the best water and energy saving policy that you've never heard of because of their strong impact and low profile. Most people are unaware that federal-level appliance standards are already savings Pennsylvania consumers \$482 per year in lower utility bills.¹ Adopting the state-level efficiency standards in HB 1615 would add to the savings, further reducing energy waste and lowering consumer utility bills. For these reasons and more outlined below, we support HB 1615.

APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS SAVE MONEY, ENERGY, AND REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

According to analysis from ASAP, adopting the standards proposed in HB 1615 are estimated to save Pennsylvania \$294 million annually on utility bills by 2030.² As more and more consumers purchase efficient products, annual utility bill savings would grow, increasing to \$600 million annually by 2040. These savings would be seen across Pennsylvania, keeping dollars in consumer's pockets and available for spending in local economies.

Appliance efficiency standards would also result in significant energy savings, helping achieve energy efficiency goals. By 2030, 610 gigawatt hours of electricity would be saved annually, rising to 1,001 gigawatt hours of annual savings in 2040.³

Additionally, adopting appliance efficiency standards helps avoid harmful air pollutants. By 2040, an ASAP analysis estimates Pennsylvania would avoid 4,422 tons of nitrous oxide, 1,734 tons of sulfur dioxide, and more than seven million tons of carbon dioxide if the efficiency standards identified in HB 1615 are adopted.⁴

OTHER STATES ARE ACTING; PENNSYLVANIA MAY BE LEFT BEHIND

Since 2018, 13 states have adopted new appliance efficiency standards, including regional states like New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine.⁵ If efficiency standards are not adopted in Pennsylvania, the state could become the dumping ground for the less

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

² [ASAP savings report for Pennsylvania 2023 proposed products](#).

³ [ASAP savings report for Pennsylvania 2023 proposed products](#).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ The complete list is New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, California, and Hawaii.

efficient products that can no longer be sold in these regional states, saddling consumers and businesses with higher utility bills.

COST EFFECTIVE, READILY AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

The standards proposed by HB 1615 are also cost effective for consumers. ASAP estimates six of the 11 products proposed for standards would have a payback period of less than 18 months, with five of these products seeing savings start on Day 1.⁶ Consumers would also have plenty of product choices because products that meet the proposed standards are readily available from multiple manufacturers.

Additionally, products would not have to proactively be changed out because of HB 1615. The bill only applies to new sales of new products. Consumers could continue to use their existing products as long as they wish. The bill just means that after the effective date it will be the more efficient products available for purchase. The bill also does not apply to the sales of used products.

Thank you for your consideration of appliance efficiency standards. We would be happy to respond to any questions or provide additional information to the committee.

Sincerely,

Brian Fadie
State Policy Manager
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

⁶ [ASAP savings report for Pennsylvania 2023 proposed products.](#)

TESTIMONY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

**Robert M. Routh, Esq.
Pennsylvania Lead, Climate & Clean Energy Program**

on House Bill 1615

Before the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee



Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

November 14, 2023

Chairman Matzie, Chairman Marshall, and honorable members of the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Representative O'Mara's and Representative Mehaffie's bipartisan Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards legislation, [House Bill 1615, P.N. 1898](#).

My name is Robert Routh, and I am a senior attorney with NRDC (the Natural Resources Defense Council), an international environmental non-profit organization with over three million members and activists. Since 1970, NRDC's lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked across the U.S. and internationally to protect our natural resources, public health, and climate. My job as Pennsylvania Lead for the Climate & Clean Energy Program is to advocate for Pennsylvania laws and policies that reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and other air pollutants to create an equitable, sustainable, and prosperous clean energy economy.

NRDC strongly supports HB 1615 and urges its swift adoption. Similar legislation providing for minimum energy and water efficiency standards for certain residential and commercial appliances has been enacted in 13 different states over the past five years, and the Commonwealth is ready to share in the air pollution reduction benefits and consumer energy savings experienced by our neighbors. Indeed, HB 1615 would yield enormous cost and GHG savings. Analysis shared by the [Appliance Standards Awareness Project](#) (ASAP) indicates that new appliance standards would provide *annual* utility bill savings to Pennsylvania households and businesses of nearly \$300 million in 2030 and \$600 million in 2040. In addition to these cost savings, the electricity, gas, and water savings would result in a reduction of 384,000 metric tons of Pennsylvania climate pollution in 2030 and a total reduction of over 7.4 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions over the lifetime of measures in place by 2040.

The public health benefits would also be significant. ASAP's analysis found these new standards would curb nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions by 217 tons in 2030 (NO_x is the smog-forming pollutant that triggers asthma and other respiratory ailments). And they would reduce fine particulate emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by more than 105 tons in 2030 (SO₂ reduces lung function and exacerbates respiratory ailments). In terms of cumulative benefits through 2040,

Pennsylvania would see reductions of over 4,400 tons of NO_x and over 1,700 tons of SO₂ emissions.

HB 1615 would address 15 commercial and residential appliances sold in the Commonwealth that are already on the market, competitively priced, and available to Pennsylvania consumers and businesses today. And in most cases, businesses and consumers would start saving money on day one. Among the 15 appliances, ten have negligible price differences comparing the average sticker price of the more energy efficient model to a less efficient one found on the shelf, four have a payback period of just 1-3 years, and only one appliance in the legislation (commercial ovens) has a payback period greater than 5 years.

And the utility bill savings going forward would be particularly critical for low-income households, who often struggle to pay their energy bills and are too often faced with termination of vital utility services. Moreover, money that would have otherwise gone to purchase energy supplies from out-of-state would stay in Pennsylvania, helping to create more jobs. Updating these appliance standards would not mean people have to change how they currently live. The only change that would occur: when it's time to replace any of the 15 covered appliances, consumers and businesses would simply find more energy efficient options on the market.

HB 1615 represents a common sense and cost-effective approach to help achieve Pennsylvania's climate goals and to make progress on Governor Shapiro's commitment to long-term energy affordability. By enacting this legislation, Pennsylvanians would start to benefit from real cost and carbon savings, and we would lock in a more efficient built environment for decades to come.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this bipartisan proposal.

Robert M. Routh
Pennsylvania State Lead
Climate & Clean Energy
rrouth@nrdc.org



Appliance Efficiency Standards

Pennsylvania business and residents are spending more money than necessary running appliances and lighting in homes and businesses. Efficiency standards ensure the products we purchase use energy and water efficiently while preserving quality and affordability. Commonwealth residents can put money saved on utility bills towards the important things in life.

The basics of appliance efficiency standards

- Set a minimum level of energy and water efficiency for certain household and commercial appliances
- Creates savings for consumers and businesses
- Encourages innovative water- and energy-saving technologies

Standards can bring huge benefits to Pennsylvania

- **Affordability:** Cutting energy waste saves consumers and businesses money on utility bills
- **Jobs:** Local economies get a boost when consumers have more spending money
- **Public health:** Air quality improve when emissions and pollutants are cut, improving public health

Neighboring states are acting on standards

- In the northeast, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, and Vermont have adopted a similar package of standards.
- Outside the northeast, Nevada, Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii have adopted many of the same



By 2030, new standards could save the electricity equivalent to powering **44,000** Pennsylvania homes. By 2040 this would increase to **77,000** homes.



New efficiency standards would save Pennsylvania consumers and businesses **\$294 million** per year on their utility bills by 2030. This would rise to **\$600 million** per year by 2040.

standards.

*The best energy and water saving policy
you've never heard of!*

Support Appliance Standards in Pennsylvania in 2023

The time to act is now!



Energy savings



Water Savings



Utility Bill Savings



Emissions Reductions

What's in it for Pennsylvania consumers?

Residents, businesses, and government save money

Efficiency standards ensure that the products we purchase energy and water efficiently while preserving quality and affordability.

Pennsylvania residents, businesses, and local and state governments will save more than **\$294 million annually by 2030**, which can be re-invested Pennsylvania's economy, spurring job creation.

Water savings can reduce strain on water supply and delay the need for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.

Do I have to buy expensive new products?

No. Efficiency standards merely raise the floor for products available for new purchases and do not require changing out of products currently in use. The recommended standards are also set to ensure consumers and businesses will have numerous choices of qualifying products to purchase.

 Residential	 Commercial	 Water	 Multi-Sector
Portable electric spas	Commercial dishwashers	Faucets	High CRI, cold temperature, and impact-resistant fluorescent lamps
Residential ventilating fans	Commercial fryers	Showerheads	Water coolers
	Commercial ovens	Spray sprinkler bodies	
	Commercial steam cookers	Toilets (water closets)	
	Hot food holding cabinets	Urinals	

Appliance Standards Awareness Project

2023 State Appliance Standards Recommendations

Savings estimates for: **Pennsylvania**

	Potential annual savings in 2030						Potential annual savings in 2040					
	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (BBtu)	Water (million gallons)	NO _x (tons)	SO ₂ (tons)	CO ₂ (thous. MT)	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (BBtu)	Water (million gallons)	NO _x (tons)	SO ₂ (tons)	CO ₂ (thous. MT)
Commercial dishwashers	8.1	199	277	9.5	1.4	13.1	19.4	477	664	22.8	2.8	30.4
Commercial fryers	3.1	1,026	--	46.7	0.5	55.5	6.7	2,240	--	101.9	1.0	120.7
Commercial ovens	8.3	132	--	6.5	1.4	9.6	18.0	289	--	14.2	2.6	20.0
Commercial steam cookers	5.2	42	117	2.2	0.9	3.8	11.4	91	254	4.8	1.6	7.8
Faucets	116.2	752	3,340	41.7	19.9	73.1	211.3	1,365	6,065	74.5	30.0	127.2
Gas fireplaces	--	265	--	12.0	--	14.1	--	724	--	32.8	--	38.4
High CRI fluorescent lamps	72.5	--	--	4.7	12.4	22.3	18.4	--	--	1.1	2.6	4.8
Portable electric spas	128.2	--	--	8.4	22.0	36.5	215.5	--	--	12.9	30.6	55.9
Residential ventilating fans	14.3	--	--	0.9	2.5	4.1	39.0	--	--	2.3	5.5	10.1
Showerheads	232.8	1,499	4,562	83.1	39.9	145.9	423.2	2,725	8,295	148.8	60.1	254.4
Spray sprinkler bodies	--	--	400	--	--	--	--	--	727	--	--	--
Toilets (water closets)	--	--	740	--	--	--	--	--	1,968	--	--	--
Urinals	--	--	141	--	--	--	--	--	308	--	--	--
Water coolers	20.9	--	--	1.4	3.6	6.5	38.0	--	--	2.3	5.4	9.9
Total	610	3,916	9,578	217	105	384	1,001	7,909	18,281	418	142	680

Assuming a compliance date of 2025 for all the recommended standards. Totals may not sum due to rounding. While we continue to recommend the adoption of state-level standards for commercial hot-food holding cabinets and computers and computer monitors, we have not estimated savings for these products due to insufficient data on the current market.

Savings estimates for: Pennsylvania

	Potential annual utility bill savings (million 2021\$)		Net present value savings (million 2021\$)	Benefit-cost ratio	Payback period (years)
	In 2030	In 2040			
Commercial dishwashers	7.4	19.4	125.3	11.2	1.0
Commercial fryers	9.4	20.1	102.2	3.1	2.8
Commercial ovens	1.9	4.2	7.3	1.3	6.7
Commercial steam cookers	2.9	7.0	46.6	12.5	0.8
Faucets	84.6	170.9	1279.3	no cost	0.0
Gas fireplaces	2.8	7.6	47.3	10.0	1.0
High CRI fluorescent lamps	7.0	2.2	30.7	2.9	2.1
Portable electric spas	19.6	33.9	239.1	9.4	0.7
Residential ventilating fans	2.2	6.1	43.0	no cost	0.0
Showerheads	131.8	263.9	1,983.4	no cost	0.0
Spray sprinkler bodies	7.1	14.8	101.9	15.1	0.6
Toilets (water closets)	13.1	40.1	343.2	no cost	0.0
Urinals	2.5	6.3	44.8	no cost	0.0
Water coolers	1.9	3.5	27.4	no cost	0.0
Total	294	600	4,421	31.4	–

Assuming a compliance date of 2025 for all the recommended standards. Net present value savings take into account both utility bill savings and estimated impacts on product costs for items sold between 2025 and 2040. Totals may not sum due to rounding. The total benefit-cost ratio is calculated as the present value of the total utility bill savings from products sold through 2040 for the package of recommended standards divided by the present value of the total additional costs. While we continue to recommend the adoption of state-level standards for commercial hot-food holding cabinets and computers and computer monitors, we have not estimated savings for these products due to insufficient data on the current market.

Cumulative savings estimates for: Pennsylvania

	Potential cumulative savings through 2040					
	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (TBtu)	Water (billion gallons)	NO _x (tons)	SO ₂ (tons)	CO ₂ (thous. MT)
Commercial dishwashers	182	4.5	6.2	214.7	27.3	289.0
Commercial fryers	67	22.4	--	1,019.2	10.1	1,208.3
Commercial ovens	180	2.9	--	142.2	27.0	203.7
Commercial steam cookers	114	0.9	2.5	48.4	17.1	80.2
Faucets	2,324	15.0	66.7	825.5	350.4	1,418.3
Gas fireplaces	--	6.2	--	278.7	--	326.7
High CRI fluorescent lamps	721	--	--	46.2	115.8	214.4
Portable electric spas	2,446	--	--	152.5	371.0	654.8
Residential ventilating fans	332	--	--	20.5	49.6	88.2
Showerheads	4,655	30.0	91.2	1,647.9	702.0	2,834.4
Spray sprinkler bodies	--	--	8.0	--	--	--
Toilets (water closets)	--	--	17.0	--	--	--
Urinals	--	--	3.1	--	--	--
Water coolers	418	--	--	26.0	63.1	117.1
Total	11,440	82	195	4,422	1,734	7,435

Assuming a compliance date of 2025 for all the recommended standards. Totals may not sum due to rounding. While we continue to recommend the adoption of state-level standards for commercial hot-food holding cabinets and computers and computer monitors, we have not estimated savings for these products due to insufficient data on the current market.

Dear members of the Pennsylvania legislature,

We the undersigned organizations, businesses, and community leaders write to respectfully ask you to **support bipartisan legislation introduced by state Representatives Jennifer O'Mara and Thomas Mehaffie and state Senator Lindsey Williams to promote energy and water efficiency standards for a set of appliances sold in Pennsylvania.** This legislation is [HB 1615](#) and [SB 755](#).

Energy efficiency is a crucial tool for reducing air and global warming pollution, conserving water, and saving consumers money on their utility bills.

That's because the cheapest, cleanest form of energy is the energy that we don't need to use or produce in the first place.

[HB 1615](#) and [SB 755](#) will require energy efficiency and water conservation standards for a set of 15 commercial and residential appliances sold in the Commonwealth. All of these appliances are already on the market, competitively priced, and available to Pennsylvania consumers and businesses today.

This legislation can play a critical role to help Pennsylvania tackle climate change, reduce air pollution, conserve our water resources, and save the Commonwealth's consumers and businesses money on their utility bills.

If implemented into law, these efficiency standards are expected to achieve the following savings **annually** by 2030:

- Cut emissions of the global warming pollution by over 384,000 metric tons, the equivalent of taking over 85,000 cars off the road;
- Slash nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by 217 tons. NOx is the smog-forming pollutant that triggers asthma and other respiratory ailments;
- Reduce fine particulate emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO2) by more than 105 tons. SO2 reduces lung function and exacerbates respiratory ailments;
- Conserve nearly 10 billion gallons of water;
- Save Pennsylvania consumers and businesses almost \$300 million on their utility bills.

Of the 15 appliances included in HB 1615 and SB 755, 10 have a negligible price differences between the average sticker price when comparing the more energy efficient appliance to the less energy efficient model found on the store shelf, 4 have a payback period of 1-3 years, and only 1 appliance (commercial ovens) has a payback period greater than 5 years. This means that in most cases, businesses and consumers start saving money on day one.

As you can see, this legislation will go a long way towards protecting the health, environment, and pocketbooks of Pennsylvania's residents and businesses. For these reasons, we support this important proposal and hope that you will too by cosponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Organizations:

PennEnvironment
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Breathe Project
Bucks Environmental Action
CASA/ CASA in Action
Chestnut Hill United Church
Clean Air Council
Clean Water Action
Conservation Voters of PA
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)
Green Building Alliance
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA)
Narberth Environmental Advisory Council
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
PA Jewish Earth Alliance
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Sanderson Sustainable Design
Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter
Thomas Blvd Group
Vote Solar
Working for Justice Ministry St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Local elected officials:

Mayme Baumann, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors, Uwchlan Township
Alice Gabriel, Councilperson, Etna Borough
Elizabeth Dale Harris, EAC member, Lansdowne
Jim Lee, Commissioner, Springfield Township (Montco)
Maggy Myers, Commissioner, Radnor Township
Erika Strassburger, Councilperson, Pittsburgh City Council
Sharon Yates, Township Supervisor, Valley Township



November 8, 2023

Consumer Protection, Technology, and Utilities Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
501 N 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairs Matzie and Marshall:

The Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA) strongly supports House Bill 1615 for Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Standards.

KEEA is Pennsylvania's trade association for the energy efficiency industry. With our sister organization the Energy Efficiency Alliance of New Jersey, we represent 70 business members across Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Our mission is to champion efficiency as the foundation of a clean, just, and resilient energy economy.

Energy efficiency allows the same functions to be performed with less energy. It has a myriad of benefits – from saving consumers money on their bills, to reducing pollution and improving health and comfort, to supporting an industry of [10,000 businesses and 70,000 workers in PA](#).

Appliance standards are a crucial piece of the efficiency puzzle. By setting a floor that all appliances sold in PA must meet, you will remove the complicated comparisons consumers must engage in to avoid selecting an energy-guzzling appliance. Instead, all consumers will have access to quality appliances that perform the needed service without wasting energy and money. This protection is especially important for renters, who cannot select their own appliances but are responsible for their utility bills.

[Appliance standards make financial sense](#). Of the 15 appliances included in HB 1615, 10 have negligible price differences between more and less energy efficient models found on store shelves today. Four have a payback period of 1-3 years, and only one appliance (commercial ovens) has a payback period greater than 5 years. This means that in most cases, businesses and consumers start saving money on day one. And they will continue to save – by 2030, this bill

will save Pennsylvanians almost \$300 million per year on utility bills, all while cutting pollution and making purchases of new appliances easier for consumers.

We encourage you to support this common sense bill.

Sincerely,

Rachel Goodgal
Government Affairs Manager
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance