

April 27, 2021

Chairman Beyer
Vice-Chair Findley
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: HB 2062 - Relating to energy efficiency standards

Dear Chairman Beyer and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) regarding HB 2062. ASAP is a coalition project that includes representatives from energy efficiency, consumer and environmental advocacy groups, and utilities. ASAP 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 appliance standards are already savings Oregon consumers and businesses \$395 per year in lower utility bills.¹ Adopting the state efficiency standards in HB 2062 would add to the savings, further reducing energy and water waste and lowering consumer utility bills. For these reasons and more outlined below, we support HB 2062 and would be happy to respond to any questions or provide additional information to the committee.

APPLIANCE STANDARDS SAVE MONEY, WATER, AND REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

According to analysis from ASAP, adopting the standards proposed in HB 2062 is estimated to save Oregonians almost \$30 million annually on utility bills by 2025.² Those savings increase to \$100 million annually by 2035. These savings would be seen across all of Oregon, keeping dollars in consumer's pockets and available for spending in local economies.

We also estimate that adopting the standards in HB 2062 would save Oregon almost 1.2 billion gallons of water annually by 2025, rising to almost 3.5 billion gallons annually by 2035.³ These water savings would seem to be particularly important due to the increasing frequency of droughts in Oregon.

Additionally, adopting appliance standards helps avoid harmful air pollutants. By 2035, an ASAP analysis estimates that Oregon would avoid 676 tons of nitrous oxide, 134 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 963,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the adoption of standards for the products identified in HB 2062.⁴

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

² [ASAP savings report for Oregon 2021 proposed products](#).

³ Ibid. Note: These estimates were created using the federal WaterSense standard for faucets and showerheads. HB 2062 uses a slightly stronger for these products and would likely result in additional water savings.

⁴ Ibid.

OREGON HAS A LONG HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP ON APPLIANCE EFFICENCY STANDARDS

Oregon has long been a leader in adopting money-saving appliance efficiency standards. Since 2007, the state has adopted efficiency standards for 21 products.⁵ The U.S. Department of Energy has since followed Oregon's lead and adopted efficiency standards for many of these products, allowing HB 2062 to safely remove certain standards from the books (once standards are set at the federal level states cannot set their own).

OTHER STATES ARE ACTING; OREGON MAY BE LEFT BEHIND

While Oregon has a strong history of acting on appliance efficiency standards, it now could potentially be left behind as neighboring states update their standards. In 2019, both Washington and California adopted updated appliance standards. Regionally, Nevada, Hawaii, and Colorado also adopted standards in 2019 with Nevada exploring adding additional standards in 2021. If updated standards are not adopted in Oregon, the state could become the dumping ground for the less efficient products that can no longer be sold in neighboring states, saddling consumers and businesses with higher utility bills.

COST EFFECTIVE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

In addition to saving consumers almost \$30 million annually on utility bills by 2025, ASAP estimates seven of the 10 products proposed for efficiency standards would have a payback period of less than 6 months, with four of those products seeing savings start on Day 1.⁶

Thank you again for considering this powerful energy and water efficiency policy. We would be happy to respond to questions or provide additional information to the committee.

Sincerely,

Brian Fadie
State Policy Associate
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

⁵ For a full list, see ASAP's "Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Adopted by State," found at: https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/State_status_May_2020.pdf

⁶ [ASAP savings report for Oregon 2021 proposed products.](#)