

December 10, 2024

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong opposition to any legislation that raises consumer costs by undermining the federal government's ability to establish, implement and enforce energy and water efficiency standards for consumer products. Specifically, **we urge you to oppose [H.R. 7673](#), the "*Liberty in Laundry Act*," which would raise costs for consumers.**

Every benefit that the *Liberty in Laundry Act*'s authors claim it would have are already baseline requirements for all efficiency standards by law. The bill text prevents the Department of Energy (DOE) from promulgating or enforcing efficiency standards for clothes washers unless they "result in significant conservation of energy," are "technologically feasible and economically justified," and are "not likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer." All of those criteria are already required of every efficiency standard under [42 U.S.C. 6295](#) subsection (o): efficiency standards must "result in significant conservation of energy" and be "technologically feasible" and "economically justified," which includes whether consumer utility bill savings outweigh any increased product costs.

The *Liberty in Laundry Act* would upend this common sense approach by leaving out consideration of utility bill savings in net costs: standards that increase up-front cost by even one penny may be disallowed no matter the total cost savings for consumers.

The new standards for clothes washers, completed earlier this year and set to take effect starting in 2028, will save money for consumers. DOE estimates Americans will save \$18 billion on utility bills from the use of new models sold over 30 years. The standards will reduce annual utility bills by about \$23 for households replacing a typical inefficient model, easily covering the upfront cost increase.

Not only do more efficient models lower costs, they also **out-perform their inefficient counterparts**. A review of Consumer Reports testing ratings found that roughly three-quarters of ENERGY STAR models received a washing performance score of 4 or 5 (out of 5) while only about one-quarter of non-ENERGY STAR models achieved such ratings.

In addition, the **new standards will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 14 million metric tons over 30 years of sales**, according to DOE estimates. By improving the efficiency of machines responsible for 16% of household indoor water consumption, these standards offer a critical opportunity to bolster water conservation efforts in the increasingly arid western United States.

Existing [efficiency standards for a range of products are cutting typical household utility bills by more than \\$500 each year](#). All combined, they saved consumers and businesses in the United States [\\$1 trillion through 2020](#). They are expected to reduce energy costs by [\\$2 trillion through 2030](#).

Manufacturers and consumers alike support stronger energy efficiency standards for appliances. A YouGov [poll](#) found that 58% of respondents support “setting tougher energy efficiency standards for appliances,” while only 26% are opposed. Furthermore, home appliance manufacturers, represented by the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, [expressed support](#) for the new standards. The passage of H.R. 7673 would harm businesses and households alike.

Anti-energy efficiency legislation disregards these many benefits, eroding DOE’s ability to reduce energy and water waste in commonly used appliances and equipment.

As we face multiple crises at home and abroad, Congress should not be raising energy costs for consumers and increasing pollution in communities across the United States. **We urge you to oppose H.R. 7673 and support DOE’s long-established authority to set standards that help consumers save energy and lower their costs.**

Sincerely,

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Appliance Standards Awareness Project

Consumer Federation of America

National Consumer Law Center