

# Appliances Bill Could Help Trump Cancel Efficiency Standards and Would Stymie Future Progress

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*H.R. 4626, introduced by Rep. Rick Allen, would give President Trump new powers to attack efficiency standards for appliances and equipment, raising costs for families and businesses. It also would set new roadblocks for future administrations trying to update standards, keeping old, energy-wasting technologies on the market. And it is not needed to preserve consumer choice—existing law already requires that standards protect consumers’ access to desired features and do not restrict fuel sources.*

Energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment save money for consumers and businesses, reduce pollution, and help ease strain on the electric grid. H.R. 4626 would put today’s standards at risk and threaten the ability to strengthen them as technology continues to improve.

## Bill would give Trump new powers to attack cost-saving standards

H.R. 4626 would give President Trump new powers he could use to try to get rid of today’s standards. It would direct the Department of Energy (DOE) to “evaluate” standards in the two years after they are finalized, creating immediate uncertainty for manufacturers, who invest in upgrading their product lines to prepare for set compliance dates. DOE could then revoke a standard if it finds that it is not “technologically feasible and economically justified.” While all finalized standards must already meet these criteria, the Trump administration could concoct erroneous new analyses or reasoning to justify such a revocation, and dare courts to reject them—with the outcomes uncertain.

H.R. 4626 goes much further still: if President Trump successfully gutted a product’s efficiency standard under the bill, states would be specifically prohibited from setting their own standards for the product. For decades, states have set standards to protect consumers when there is no federal standard.

## Bill would stymie future progress

H.R. 4626 would add roadblocks for future administrations seeking to update standards and would reduce accountability for federal regulators. It would:

- Prohibit standards—no matter their savings for consumers—in cases where the additional upfront cost is paid back in more than three years, even for products that last for decades. This would block many standards. For example, a 2014 standard for commercial refrigeration equipment was estimated to save businesses a net of about \$900 over the life of a certain type of model. But it would have been prohibited under this bill because it takes 5.7 years to pay back, even though the product lasts an average of 10–15 years.
- Prohibit DOE from updating a standard if it would save less than 0.3 quadrillion Btu of energy and reduce energy or water use by less than 10%—even though standards that don’t meet these arbitrary thresholds can bring significant cost savings to families and businesses. For

example, if this provision were law, DOE could not have set standards for dehumidifiers that are saving households that use them \$100–\$140 in net costs over the product’s lifetime.

- Eliminate the primary accountability tool ensuring DOE regulators periodically update standards when beneficial to the public. This process, set in a bipartisan 2007 law, uses an eight-year review cycle to assess and implement necessary updates based on technological advances.

## **Future standards are critical as technology continues to improve**

Because of technological improvements in many product types, major savings are achievable through future standards—if they are not blocked. An [ASAP analysis](#) found that future standards could:

- Save U.S. households an average of nearly \$150 annually on their utility bills over two decades (2030–2050). Businesses could collectively save \$13.8 billion annually.
- By 2040, reduce U.S. electricity consumption by an amount equivalent to nearly 5% of projected consumption and reduce peak demand by 32 gigawatts.
- Reduce cumulative carbon dioxide emissions by close to 1 billion metric tons through 2050 while also cutting emissions that directly harm human health, including NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>.

## **The law already requires standards to benefit the public and preserves product choice**

The sponsor of H.R. 4626 touts the bill as protecting consumers. But existing law already requires that standards be “technologically feasible and economically justified.” By law, DOE must also ensure that consumers continue to have access to product features they value, and the department is expressly prohibited from eliminating categories of products that use a particular fuel type, such as gas. H.R. 4626 only protects energy waste.

## **Strengthening energy efficiency standards is popular**

Polling has consistently shown wide, bipartisan support for efficiency standards. A 2025 [Consumer Reports poll](#) found 87% of respondents support standards. And a majority of Americans want them strengthened: A 2024 [YouGov poll](#) found that 58% of respondents support “setting tougher energy efficiency standards for appliances,” while 16% are not sure and only 26% are opposed.

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