



**ACTION ALERT – June 2021 – version 2**

## **Urge US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm to Promptly Implement Light Bulb Efficiency Standards**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Energy (DOE) issued a Federal Register [notice](#) announcing that it is re-evaluating the prior administration's decision to not implement updated light bulb standards. Under a 2007 law, Congress required that standards which would effectively phase out incandescent bulbs must take effect on January 1, 2020. The Obama administration expanded the coverage of these standards from the classic, pear-shaped light bulbs to many other common shapes and sizes used in homes (reflector bulbs used in track lighting, globes, candelabra shapes, etc.). The Trump DOE first reversed the expansion to other bulb types and then decided the standards do not apply to any bulbs at all.

The Biden administration can implement the updated standard (including the expansion to more bulb types), effectively completing the transition from energy- and dollar-wasting incandescent bulbs to low-cost, high-efficiency LEDs for the entire U.S. market.

Supporters of this transition can encourage DOE to implement light bulb standards by submitting brief written comments **no later than June 24<sup>th</sup>** urging Energy Secretary Granholm to swiftly implement updated standards for light bulb types commonly used for household lighting, including all the shapes and sizes added by the Obama administration. (Instructions on how to submit comments below).

Points to consider in your letter include the following:

- **DOE should implement light bulb standards promptly because the cost of further delay is enormous.** DOE's failure to implement light bulb standards in 2020 as required by law has already cost consumers billions of dollars in lost savings and caused millions of tons of climate change emissions. **Each month of additional delay will cost consumers another \$300 million in lost bill savings and result in the needless emission of another 800,000 tons of planet-warming CO<sub>2</sub>.**<sup>1</sup> Secretary Granholm should end this delay by implementing the new standards as soon as practical, allowing the minimum amount of time needed for retailers to sell existing inventory.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on Appliance Standards Awareness analysis conducted for "[A Powerful Priority: How Appliance Standards Can Help Meet U.S. Climate Goals and Save Consumers Money.](#)" November 2020. An earlier version of this alert underestimated the cost of delay by not fully accounting for increased costs and emissions over the installed lifetime of inefficient bulbs sold during each month of delay.

- **Consumers save big.** Changing just one bulb from an incandescent bulb to an LED saves \$40 - \$90 over ten years.<sup>2</sup> Using the midpoint of this estimate (\$65) and the average number of bulbs per US home (about 45), that translates into \$3,000 in net savings over 10 years! No wonder LEDs have become very popular, gaining an overall market share of about 60% according to market research firm Apex Analytics.<sup>3</sup> But the 40% of sales that are still incandescent products are costing consumers dearly.
- **Standards ensure that all consumers benefit.** Research in Michigan showed that low-income consumers have less access to affordable LEDs than other consumers because the stores they often shop at do not stock them or set prices high.<sup>4</sup> Research in New York also showed that urban stores stock fewer LEDs than suburban stores. Standards will ensure that all consumers have access to low-cost, energy-efficient LEDs whether they buy their bulbs at big box suburban stores, grocery stores, hardware stores, dollar stores or corner stores. Prompt implementation of the standards will ensure that all consumers benefit from up-to-date, energy saving technology.

**ACTION:** Write to US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to urge her to promptly implement the light bulb standards. Please consider using the information above to argue for prompt implementation of light bulb standards for all types of common household bulbs, including those added during the Obama administration.

**Address your letter to:**

Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
US Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington DC 20585

Send it by email to [The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov](mailto:The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov)

**and** submit it to the rulemaking docket by emailing it to [GSL2021STD0005@ee.doe.gov](mailto:GSL2021STD0005@ee.doe.gov)

*For more information contact Andrew deLaski at [adelaski@standardsASAP.org](mailto:adelaski@standardsASAP.org) or Marianne DiMascio at [mdimascio@standardsASAP.org](mailto:mdimascio@standardsASAP.org)*

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<sup>2</sup> See “LEDs: A great deal for consumers” in [“US Light Bulb Standards Save Billions for Consumers But Manufacturers Seek a Rollback.”](#) Appliance Standards Awareness Project and American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, July 2018.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.creedlighttracker.com/>

<sup>4</sup> Reames, T., M. Reiner, M.B. Stacey [“An incandescent truth: Disparities in energy-efficient lighting availability and prices in an urban U.S. county.”](#) University of Michigan, 2018.