

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 exasperates 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
Advanced Energy United
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
Earthworks
Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine
Reclamation (EPCAMR)
Green Building Alliance
Green Building United
Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance
(KEEA)
Keystone Research Center
Narberth Environmental Advisory Council
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
PA Jewish Earth Alliance
PA Solar & Storage Industries Association
(PASSIA)
PennFuture
Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light
Pennsylvania Sustainable Business Network
(SBN)

Pennsylvania Utility Law Project
Philadelphia Solar Energy Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Pennsylvania
Pocono Heritage Land Trust
POWER Interfaith
Sanderson Sustainable Design
Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter
Thomas Blvd Group
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
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