



Consumer Federation of America

Via email

March 21, 2018

Honorable Christopher Bray
Chair, Vermont Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
cbray@leg.state.vt.us

RE: Support of H 410, an act relating to adding products to Vermont's appliance efficiency standards

Dear Senator Bray and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is writing in support of H 410. CFA is an association of more than 250 nonprofit consumer organizations across the U.S., including Vermont, which was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education. It has long advocated on the federal and state levels for cost-effective energy and water efficiency standards as they benefit consumers through lower utility bills.

We strongly support H 410, which would adopt energy and water efficiency standards that protect consumers. The bill, which includes standards for common household products such as computers, monitors, faucets, and showerheads is an excellent opportunity to reduce energy and water waste, lower consumer utility bills, and benefit the environment.

According to a July 2017 report by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, if H 410 is adopted in 2018, by 2025:

- Vermont consumers and businesses will save \$18 million per year on utility bills.
- Annual CO₂ emissions associated with energy used in Vermont will be cut by 22,000 metric tons of CO₂, equivalent to the emissions from 4,711 cars for a year.
- Savings from the new energy efficiency standards could equal nearly 3% of all the electricity used by Vermont households each year.
- Vermont households and businesses will save 496 million gallons of water annually.

These savings grow over time as more and more consumers purchase efficient products that comply with the new state standards, reaching nearly \$30 million and 33,000 metric tons of CO₂ annually by 2035.

Passing this legislation is a win-win-win for Vermont. H 410 will cut energy and water waste, save consumers and businesses money, and reduce greenhouse gases. In addition, Vermont will help lead our country in the right direction. CFA urges you to adopt this very cost-effective pro-consumer bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mel Hall-Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M" and "H".

Mel Hall-Crawford
Director of Energy Programs
Consumer Federation of America

cc: Representatives Curt McCormack and Marcia Gardner
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