



Consumer Federation of America

1620 I Street, N.W., Suite 200 * Washington, DC 20006

Via email

February 26, 2020

Senator Norm Needleman and Representative David Arconti
Chairs, Joint Committee on Energy and Technology
Connecticut General Assembly

RE: Support for SB 178, An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Standards

Dear Chair Needleman and Chair Arconti:

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is writing in regards to SB 178, legislation to establish and update energy and water efficiency standards. CFA is an association of more than 250 nonprofit organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education. We have long advocated for cost-effective energy and water efficiency standards as they benefit consumers through lower utility bills.

We support SB 178, by which the state of Connecticut would update or establish energy and water efficiency standards to protect consumers. The bill includes standards for computers, common household products such as air purifiers, lighting products known as general service lamps, faucets, toilets and showerheads as well as standards for commercial products such as commercial dishwashers, ovens and fryers. This bill is an excellent opportunity to reduce energy and water waste, lower consumer utility bills, and cut emissions, and when the commercial and industrial sectors save on their operating costs, consumers benefit indirectly through lower costs of goods and services.

If SB 178 is adopted, data provided by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project indicate the annual savings by 2025 for Connecticut consumers and businesses to be:

- \$68 million on utility bills;
- 171 gigawatt hours of electricity;
- 2.3 billion gallons of water;
- Almost 66,000 metric tons of carbon.

With the average payback period of products covered by the bill being less than a year, low income homeowners will directly benefit from installing more efficient household appliances, since they are responsible for the home's utility bills,. Low-income tenants, as well,

will benefit through the lower utility bills they would pay as landlords will be purchasing more efficient replacement appliances for their rental properties.

In closing, passing this legislation is a win-win-win for Connecticut. SB 178 will cut unnecessary energy and water waste, save consumers and businesses money, and reduce greenhouse gases. CFA urges you to adopt this beneficial, pro-consumer bill and to forge the way for the state of Connecticut to a leader in energy and water efficiency.

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 "A" at the end.

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