



Consumer Federation of America

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

Via email

February 16, 2021

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

RE: Support for SB 863, An Act Relating to Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Dear Chair Needleman and Chair Arconti and members of the Committee:

The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is writing in regards to SB 863, legislation to establish and update state appliance and equipment energy and water efficiency standards. By way of background, CFA is an association of more than 250 national, state and local nonprofit organizations (including some in Connecticut) 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 863, 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 and steam cookers. Overall, 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 863 is adopted, data provided by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project indicate the annual savings by 2026 for Connecticut consumers and businesses to be:

- \$59 million on utility bills;
- 128 gigawatt hours of electricity;
- 2.1 billion gallons of water;
- 33,000 metric tons of carbon.

And, the pocketbook savings on utility bills will grow to \$169 million annually by 2035.

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 863 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 -- it would demonstrate Connecticut's commitment to being 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, flowing style with a large, stylized initial "M".

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