



Consumer Federation of America

**Statement of
Richard Eckman, Energy Advocate and Communications Manager
Consumer Federation of America
before the
Maine House of Representatives
Committee of Environment and Natural Resources
in Support of LD1814,
An Act to Reduce Mercury in the Environment by Phasing Out Certain
Fluorescent Light Bulbs
May 8, 2023**

Dear Members of the Maine Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Richard Eckman. I am the Energy Advocate for the Consumer Federation of America. Founded in 1968, CFA is one of the nation's largest consumer organizations working in the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education. CFA represents over 250 national, state and local groups. For more than 20 years, CFA has supported and promoted cost-effective energy and water efficiency policies and practices at the federal, state and local levels. I'm pleased to comment in support of the Act to Reduce Mercury in the Environment by Phasing Out Certain Fluorescent Light Bulbs (LD1814). Quite simply, it will benefit Maine residents and businesses by saving them money on their utility bills—while also benefiting the environment.

The Act would save Mainers and businesses money by transitioning sales of common fluorescent light bulbs to LEDs. As LEDs are twice as energy efficient as fluorescents, LEDs will generate significant electricity bill savings. Estimates by ASAP show that by 2030, Maine would see annual utility bill savings of \$20

million thanks to transitioning from fluorescents to LEDs. By 2050 Maine would save a cumulative \$253 million on electricity bills.

In closing, passing this legislation is a win-win-win for Maine. The bill will cut energy waste and reduce greenhouse gases while improving air quality. CFA urges you to adopt this highly cost-effective pro-consumer bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard F. Eckman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Eckman

Energy Advocate &
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Consumer Federation of America

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