

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

July 28, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright,

We write to express our strong opposition to the Department of Energy's (DOE) recently proposed rule for the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program. In 2024 alone, the Program's product efficiency standards collectively saved U.S. consumers and businesses nearly \$105 billion on their utility bills.¹ The proposed rule would make it substantially harder for DOE to build on this progress and adopt new efficiency standards by increasing unnecessary government regulations and erecting a series of time-consuming steps and restrictions that were never mandated by Congress.² We urge you to reconsider this proposal and instead work to meaningfully lower energy bills by empowering Americans to transition to energy- and cost-saving appliances.

Appliance and equipment efficiency standards are a key tool for the federal government to reduce energy costs for American households and businesses. DOE standards implemented from 2021 to 2024 will together reduce utility bills by over \$1 trillion over 30 years, saving the average American family at least \$100 a year.³ Standards adopted through January 2025 are expected to save over 160 quadrillion BTUs of energy through 2035—more energy than the entire U.S. consumes in a single year.⁴ Moreover, the American people want efficient, energy-saving appliances; product efficiency standards have consistently enjoyed near-universal bipartisan support.^{5,6}

The U.S. is currently facing an energy affordability crisis and now is precisely the wrong time to make it harder for Americans to save money by making products more efficient. Households and businesses across the United States have faced skyrocketing energy costs over the past year. Residential electricity prices have increased by more than 15% nationally since January 2025,

¹ [Appliance Standards Fact Sheet-02.pdf](#)

² [Energy Conservation Program: Procedures, Interpretations, and Policies for Consideration of New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Consumer Products and Certain Commercial/Industrial Equipment](#)

³ [Appliance Standards Fact Sheet-02.pdf](#)

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ [New Consumer Reports Survey Shows Strong Bipartisan Support for Home Energy Efficiency Policies](#)

⁶ [Who wins on policy? American support for Biden's and Trump's proposals](#)

which is nearly triple the rate of current inflation.^{7,8} The proposed rule would only make it unreasonably challenging for DOE to leverage tools already at its disposal to lower energy bills for Americans across the country.

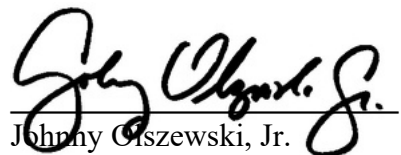
The *Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975*, as expanded and revised on a bipartisan basis numerous times, gives DOE a clear mandate from Congress to develop, review, and update energy conservation standards for covered products and equipment, so long as they are technologically feasible, economically justified, and result in significant energy savings.⁹ The current DOE process already requires proving that new product standards yield significant energy- and cost-savings without imposing strict consumer choice limitations. The newly proposed DOE rule would effectively subvert the intent of Congress by imposing politically motivated requirements, for example, increasing deference to industry-developed test procedures and standards and establishing a minimum savings threshold that would block standards that deliver as much as \$35 billion in energy cost savings.¹⁰ Together, these changes would considerably delay, and in many cases block new product efficiency standards and the consumer cost-savings they would otherwise deliver.

At a time when American families and businesses are struggling with rising energy costs, DOE should be making it easier—not harder—to deliver the energy savings Congress intended. We strongly urge you to reconsider the newly proposed rule for the DOE Appliance and Equipment Standards Program. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



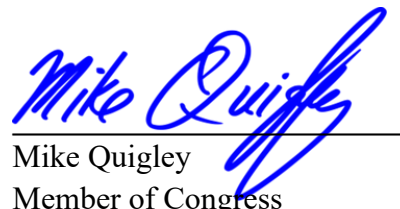
Dave Min
SEEC Building Resilient Housing
Task Force Co-Chair



Johnny Olszewski, Jr.
SEEC Building Resilient Housing
Task Force Co-Chair



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

⁷ [Electric Power Monthly - U.S. Energy Information Administration \(EIA\)](#)

⁸ [CPI Inflation Calculator](#)

⁹ [Department of Energy Appliance and Equipment Standards Program](#)

¹⁰ [DOE Proposes Roadblocks for Future Efficiency Standards Despite Rising Energy Bills | ASAP Appliance Standard Awareness Project](#)



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



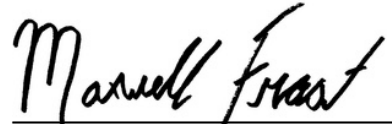
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



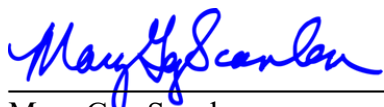
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



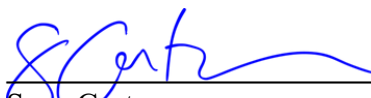
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



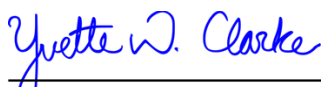
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



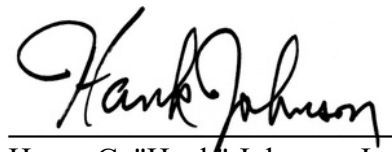
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



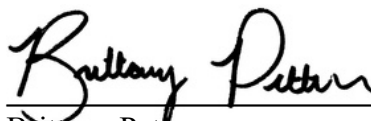
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



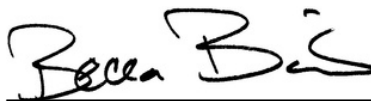
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Ed Case

Ed Case
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Sarah Elfreth

Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Dan Goldman

Dan Goldman
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross

Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress

Emily Randall

Emily Randall
Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter, M.D.

Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress