



Natural Resources Council of Maine

3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine 04330 • (207) 622-3101 • Fax: (207) 622-4343 • www.nrcm.org

Testimony in Support of LD 1158, An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards

**To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
by Sarah Nichols, NRCM
April 7, 2025**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Sarah Nichols, and I'm here today to testify in support of LD 1158, An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards on behalf of the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). NRCM is Maine's leading nonprofit, nonpartisan environmental advocacy organization with 20,000 members and supporters statewide.

This bill would expand the list of appliances covered under Maine's appliance efficiency standard established in 2021. NRCM supported the establishment of appliance efficiency standards in Maine to ensure that the appliances we purchase use energy and water more efficiently while preserving quality and affordability. Thirteen states have enacted appliance standards since 2018, including Maine, which adopted standards for 10 products in 2021. Without standards, Maine risks becoming a dumping ground for inefficient products.

In setting these requirements, Maine households and businesses will not only aid in achieving a marked reduction in the state's carbon and other pollutants but will also benefit from an improvement in the usefulness of the covered appliances and from a reduction in utility bills. In fact, if the proposed standards are enacted, Maine consumers and businesses would see \$169 million in utility bill savings by 2050.¹

By 2050, these proposed appliance standards could cumulatively save Maine more than 298 gigawatt hours of electricity and 6 trillion BTUs of natural gas, keeping more than 320,000 million metric tons of CO₂ out of the atmosphere.² Energy usage from residential and

¹ Appliance Standards Awareness Project, *2025 State Appliance Standards Recommendations*, https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2024-12/2025_maine_appliance_standards_savings_report.pdf

² Ibid

commercial buildings represent the second largest sector source of climate pollution in Maine, and these appliance standards represent an enormous opportunity to reduce climate pollution while saving money for businesses and families.

Efficiency standards merely raise the floor for products available for new purchases and do not require changing out of products currently in use. The recommended standards are also set to ensure consumers and businesses will have numerous choices of products to purchase.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1158. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.