

## **Liberating Incandescent Technology Act (LIT Act) of 2025**

### Background:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Appliance Standard program sets energy conservation standards for roughly 60 household products, including dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, and lightbulbs, among other covered products. The authority to regulate such products was initially authorized in 1975 by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA). The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 amended EPCA to add "general service lamps" (i.e. lightbulbs) as a "covered product." EPCA specified roughly 20 products that are eligible for energy conservation regulations, but granted the Secretary authority to set standards for "any other type of consumer product" he or she deems is necessary to carry out the program. Importantly, under EPCA, the DOE is not allowed to set a standard so stringent that it limits consumer choice in the market for a given product. However, in 2007, Congress passed EISA which directed DOE to promulgate regulations for lightbulbs. The regulation specified in EISA directed DOE to "include consideration of a minimum standard of 45 lumens per watt for general service lamps." "Lumens per watt" is the efficiency criteria for lightbulbs that measures the amount of light emitted per watt of energy used. This regulation, which was not finalized until the Biden Administration, effectively banned the sale of incandescent bulbs in America.

### Summary:

The LIT Act removes general service lamps from regulation under DOE's Appliance Standards program. It also repeals three Biden-era regulations. The first regulation was in response to the EISA provision referenced above. The second regulation codifies the "backstop requirement" for incandescent bulbs that was prescribed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which directed DOE to prohibit the sale of "general service lamps" that do not meet the 45 lumens per watt standard. The third regulation the LIT Act repeals is an April 2024 rule from the Biden DOE. This 2024 rule, which becomes effective in 2028, further tightened lightbulb efficiency regulations from 45 lumens per watt to 120 lumens per watt. According to some reports, upwards of 99% of existing LED bulbs on the market cannot meet this extreme regulation. By repealing each regulation, the LIT Act would allow for all types of light bulbs to be sold domestically and would ensure further lightbulb regulations are not issued by DOE.