

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Secretary Wright:

We write to express strong opposition to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) proposed revision to the process rule for the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program. At a time when energy prices are skyrocketing, this Administration should be focused on making energy affordable and increasing grid capacity – not hamstringing a program that has consistently reduced bills for American families.

In July, DOE issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to “permanently end home appliance and equipment mandates.”¹ This is concerning as energy efficiency standards save American families and businesses billions of dollars a year, and Congress explicitly directed DOE to carry out the program faithfully.

The efficiency standards program has been lowering utility bills and cutting emissions since the late 1980s – under Democratic and Republican Administrations alike. Since 1987, Congress has directed DOE to set efficiency standards for upwards of 60 products. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory estimates that existing standards have reduced total U.S. energy consumption by 6.5 percent and saved the average households \$576 per year.² By eliminating this program going forward, the Trump Administration would increase utility bills for households by \$150 each year, increase peak electricity demand by 32 gigawatts (GW) in 2040, and increase cumulative CO2 emissions by nearly 1 billion metric tons through 2050.³

Under current statute⁴, DOE is required to consider consumer impacts, manufacturer impacts, technological feasibility, and economic justification before finalizing a standard. The proposed rule would layer on needless additional requirements, including undue deference to industry-developed test procedures and an unlawful minimum savings threshold set at 2 quadrillion btus of source energy or 10% of a product's total consumption. The law requires DOE to adopt standards "designed to achieve the maximum improvement in energy efficiency..., which the Secretary determines is technologically feasible and economically justified," and that results in

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/articles/trump-administration-moves-permanently-end-green-new-scam-appliance-mandates>

² <https://eta.lbl.gov/publications/energy-and-economic-impacts-us>

³ <https://appliance-standards.org/more-savings-ahead-state-analysis>

⁴ (42 USC 6295(o))

"significant" energy savings. The proposed rule undermines the letter and purpose of the appliance standards statute by the administration's own admission: the rule is designed to "permanently end" appliance and equipment standards.

We therefore urge you to withdraw the proposed rule and implement the program as Congress originally mandated.

Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



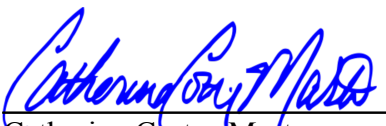
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



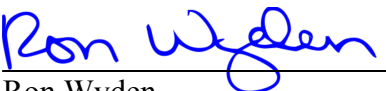
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



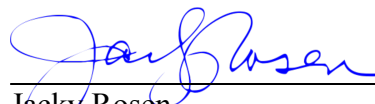
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



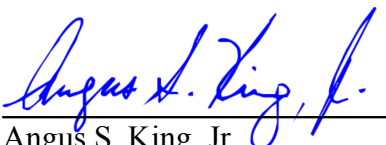
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



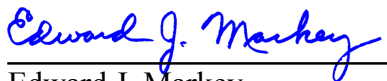
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



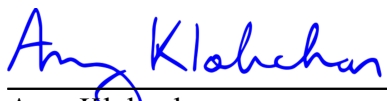
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



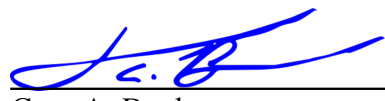
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator