



Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation

PRESS RELEASE

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APPLIANCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS SIGNED INTO LAW
Will save businesses and consumers in Arizona over \$650 million

(Tucson, AZ) -- The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) applauds Governor Janet Napolitano for signing into law House Bill 2390, and Representative Lucy Mason (R-Prescott) for sponsoring the bill. This legislation sets minimum energy efficiency standards on 12 products sold in Arizona starting in 2008.

“This legislation is a win-win proposition for businesses, consumers, and the environment,” stated Representative Mason. “I commend the Governor and my colleagues in the legislature for supporting these practical and very cost-effective energy efficiency standards.” House Bill 2390 received strong bipartisan support. The vote for final passage was 19-10-1 in the Arizona Senate and 47-13 in the House of Representatives.

“SWEEP estimates that the standards will save businesses and consumers in Arizona over \$650 million on their energy bills. At a time when natural gas prices are skyrocketing and electricity prices are rising, it makes sense to help businesses and consumers lower their energy consumption,” stated Jeff Schlegel, SWEEP’s Arizona Representative. “In addition, we estimate that these standards will reduce water consumption in Arizona by 15 billion gallons during 2008-2020.”

“SWEEP thanks Representative Mason for her strong leadership in steering House Bill 2390 through the legislature. She worked very hard to build broad support for the bill and to address any concerns. Through her efforts Representative Mason demonstrated that she is a champion for increasing energy efficiency in Arizona,” stated Jeff Schlegel.

“Arizona has demonstrated that cost-effective appliance efficiency standards make sense in all types of states – including conservative pro-business states like Arizona,” noted Howard Geller, Executive Director of SWEEP. “While the U.S. Congress is fixated on risky and controversial ‘drill and burn’ energy policies, Arizona and other states are moving ahead with common sense energy efficiency initiatives.”

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The products included in the bill are: torchiere light fixtures, exit signs, commercial refrigerators and freezers, commercial clothes washers, large commercial packaged air conditioning equipment, ice makers, pre-rinse spray nozzles used in commercial kitchens, low voltage distribution transformers, metal halide lamp fixtures, AC-DC converters for electronic devices, unit heaters, and traffic signals. These products are not covered by federal energy efficiency standards. California, Connecticut, Maryland, and New Jersey have already adopted efficiency standards on these products.

SWEEP also thanks the Arizona Public Interest Research Group for its assistance with education and advocacy, and the Arizona Corporation Commission Commissioners, Southwest Gas Company, and Salt River Project, among others, for their active support of the bill.

A copy of House Bill 2390 and SWEEP's fact sheet on it are available on the SWEEP website at <http://www.swenergy.org/legislative/arizona/index.html>.

About SWEEP: The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. To learn more, visit www.swenergy.org.