



PRESS RELEASE

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LEGISLATURE PASSES ENERGY EFFICIENCY BILL

Governor's Desk is Next Step

HB 2390 Will Save Businesses and Consumers Money, Reduce Water Use

(Phoenix) -- The Arizona Legislature has adopted HB 2390, setting minimum energy efficiency standards on 12 products not currently covered by federal energy efficiency standards. The bill was sponsored by Representative Lucy Mason (R-Prescott). HB 2390 will help Arizona's businesses and consumers save money, save water, and save energy.

"This legislation is a win-win proposition for Arizona businesses, consumers and the environment," stated Representative Mason. "We estimate that the energy efficient products will save businesses and consumers in Arizona over \$680 million on their energy bills. At the same time, the products will reduce water consumption in Arizona by over 15 billion gallons during 2008-2020."

"Energy-efficient products mean big savings for Arizonans. It's easy to do and will pay benefits for years to come," stated Jeff Hatch-Miller, Chair of the Arizona Corporation Commission, the state commission that regulates utilities in Arizona.

"Energy efficiency proponents worked with businesses, government agencies, and regulatory officials to develop an effective state standards bill. Because of this, the bill passed the legislature with broad bipartisan support. We encourage Governor Napolitano to sign the bill into law," said Jeff Schlegel, representative of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP).

The products covered in the bill include commercial refrigerators and freezers, large commercial packaged air conditioning equipment, commercial clothes washers, commercial ice makers, pre-rinse spray valves used in commercial kitchens, torchiere light fixtures, illuminated exit signs, traffic signals, external power supplies, low voltage dry-type distribution transformers, metal halide lamp fixtures, and unit heaters.

Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, and California have already adopted energy efficiency standards (appliance standards also recently passed the legislatures in Colorado and Washington). The efficiency standards will take effect in Arizona in 2008 for most of the products.

"Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet our energy needs. Energy efficient appliance standards are practical and cost-effective," stated Diane E. Brown, Executive Director of the Arizona Public Interest Research Group (Arizona PIRG). "We applaud the legislature for passing HB 2390, and we urge Governor Napolitano to sign energy efficient appliance standards into law."

HB 2390 is supported by Salt River Project, Southwest Gas, Tucson Electric Power, four Commissioners from the Arizona Corporation Commission, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), Arizona PIRG, Residential Utility Consumers Office (RUCO), Arizona Consumers Council, Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association, League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, Arizona Multihousing Association, and the Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI), a national association of manufacturers.