



NEWS ITEM

January 30, 2003

Appliance Efficiency Standards Bill Defeated in Colorado General Assembly

On January 27, 2003 the House Information and Technology Committee failed to approve a bill sponsored by Rep. Alice Borodkin (D-Denver) that would have set minimum energy efficiency standards on ten products not covered by federal efficiency standards. SWEEP estimates that the bill would have saved consumers and businesses in Colorado about \$740 million and lowered water use by nearly 8 billion gallons during 2005-2020.

The bill had broad support from businesses, governmental authorities, and consumer and environmental groups. No party testified against the bill at the committee hearing, and there was no known opposition to the bill. The bill was "postponed indefinitely" (i.e., defeated) on a party-line vote, with the six Republicans on the committee voting against it and the five Democrats supporting it.

"Appliance efficiency standards are a win-win opportunity in that they save consumers money, reduce water use, and reduce pollutant emissions," stated Howard Geller, Executive Director of SWEEP. "This should not be a partisan issue; in fact the original national appliance standards legislation was signed into law by President Reagan in 1987. But unfortunately the House Information and Technology Committee made it a partisan issue, and Colorado's consumers, businesses, and environment will lose as a result," Geller added.

Portions of this bill were adopted in California last year and the entire bill is being considered in at least eight states this year. The members of the Information and Technology Committee who voted for the bill are: Rep. Butcher, Judd, McFadyen, Miller, and Salazar. The members of the committee who voted against the bill are: Rep. Mitchell (Chairman), Crane (Vice-chairman), Brophy, Cadman, Fritz, and Rhodes.

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