



PRESS RELEASE

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LEGISLATURE PASSES ENERGY EFFICIENCY BILL Governor's Desk is Next Step

HB 1162 Will Save Consumers and Businesses Money, Reduce Water Use

(Denver, CO) – The Colorado General Assembly has adopted House Bill 1162, setting minimum energy efficiency standards on 14 products not currently covered by federal energy efficiency standards. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Alice Borodkin (D-Denver) and Sen. Ken Gordon (D-Denver). HB 1162 will help Colorado's consumers and businesses reduce their energy costs at a time when energy prices are skyrocketing.

“This legislation is a win-win proposition for consumers, businesses, and the environment,” stated Howard Geller, Executive Director of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP). “We estimate the standards will save consumers and businesses in Colorado over \$500 million on their energy bills. At the same time, the standards will reduce water consumption in Colorado by over 14 billion gallons during 2008-2020.”

Given these cost-effective and broad-ranging benefits, dozens of businesses have come out in favor of the bill, saying that the standards make sense for Colorado. “The standards in HB 1162 will improve public safety as well as save energy and water,” commented Vic Frank, President of Colorado Lighting, Inc. The city of Denver and the Consumer Federation of America are also supporting the bill.

“This bill passed the legislature with broad bipartisan support. Some concerns with the bill were addressed during the legislative process, and there are no manufacturers or retailers opposed to the final version of the bill that I am aware of. I urge Governor Owens to sign the bill into law,” said Senator Ken Gordon. The bill passed the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee on a 12-1 vote and the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee on a 6-1 vote.

The products covered in the bill include torchiere-style light fixtures, exit signs, reflector lamps, pool pumps, commercial refrigerators and freezers, icemakers, and traffic signals. California, Connecticut, Maryland, and New Jersey have already adopted efficiency standards on these products. The efficiency standards will take effect in Colorado in 2008 for most of the products.

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“The bill will reduce electricity use and thus pollutant emissions from power plants. These standards are practical, cost-effective, and good for public health and the environment,” said Stephanie Bonin, energy advocate of Environment Colorado. “We applaud the legislature for passing House Bill 1162, and we urge Governor Owens to sign it into law.”

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. For more information, visit the SWEEP website at www.swenergy.org.

About Environment Colorado: Environment Colorado is the statewide environmental organization dedicated to protecting Colorado's air, water and open spaces. We investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help Coloradans make their voices heard in local, state and national debates over the quality of our environment and our lives.