



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Chairman Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone,

The undersigned groups write in strong opposition to H.R. 4626, which would grant new powers to the executive branch to weaken or remove appliance and equipment efficiency standards and set roadblocks to future improvements. If enacted, this bill would raise costs for households across America.

Appliance standards ensure consumers and businesses have access to cost-saving technologies that help reduce their utility bills. Without existing standards, the typical US household would have spent an additional \$6,000 on utility bills over the past decade, according to a recent [report](#).

With these savings, it's not surprising that these standards have broad public support. A [nationally representative survey of 2,291 US adults by Consumer Reports](#) in March of 2025 found that an overwhelming majority (87%) of consumers agree that "New home appliances for sale in the U.S. should be required to achieve at least a minimum level of efficiency." When we asked what would most encourage people to buy an energy-efficient large home appliance, the most common response was lower energy bills.

Appliance efficiency standards ensure that any of the huge array of product choices available to consumers incorporate energy-saving designs and technology that help limit energy consumption and utility bills. Even with potentially higher upfront costs, energy efficient appliances still

provide much more than adequate bill savings for consumers across the country. Existing efficiency standards deliver a 3x to 5x return on investment for buyers. Minimum efficiency standards are especially valuable for the ~44 million American households who rent, and typically have no direct control over the appliances within their homes.

Energy efficiency doesn't just directly save money but also puts downward pressure on utility rates. Energy efficiency gains have helped create a downward trend in household energy consumption over the past 20 years, reducing the amount of investments utilities have had to make, preventing costs that they would have otherwise passed on to consumers. While energy efficiency alone can't solve all energy affordability challenges, it plays an important role in helping to counterbalancing rising electricity prices.

By potentially enabling the executive branch to roll back efficiency standards, H.R. 4626 would increase costs for consumers. H.R. 4626 would add needless steps to an already lengthy rulemaking process and set arbitrary minimum savings thresholds and payback periods that would put future improvements to many standards out of reach.

For the above reasons, the undersigned consumer organizations respectfully oppose H.R. 4626. Thank you for this opportunity to address these policy measures. The undersigned groups welcome the opportunity to discuss how Congress can improve affordability for consumers, but this bill takes us in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,

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