

**Testimony of Marianne DiMascio
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Before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

RE: Support for House Bill 3124 and Senate Bill 1524

Good morning Chairman Morrissey, Chairman Finegold, and members of the Committee. My name is Marianne DiMascio. I live in Hanson Massachusetts and work for the Appliance Standards Awareness Project. We are a coalition project dedicated to advancing cost-effective appliance standards at both the national and state level. Our sponsors include the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, the Alliance to Save Energy, the Consumer Federation of America and Natural Resources Defense Council.

I am here today to testify in favor of House Bill 3124 and Senate Bill 1524.

The bill before you today, “An act relative to expanding energy efficiency in the Commonwealth”, will create minimum efficiency standards for 7 products for which no federal standard exists.

The standards included in the bill were culled from a much larger group of products. The case for state energy efficiency standards for this final group of 7 products is very strong. A few key criteria distinguish these products and make them the best candidates for state energy efficiency standards.

- **Very, very cost effective to buyers and users** – Energy bill savings pay back the incremental cost of products meeting the standards within a few months to three years. After that, savings accrue to the consumers.
- **Readily available** – Products and technologies meeting the standards are readily available today from multiple manufacturers.
- **Significant energy savings statewide** – each standard makes a meaningful contribution to meeting the state’s energy needs.
- **Low-cost implementation** – Each standard is ready to implement since other states are already using or proposing identical standards.

Among the standards in the bill before you today, the one that delivers the lion’s share of the energy and dollar savings is the one for televisions.

Seven states and the District of Columbia (CA, CT, DC, MD, NH, NY, OR, RI) have already adopted standards on five of these products. Of the remaining two, California has

adopted standards on portable light fixtures and is in the process of adopting standards on TV's. The California Energy Commission is nearing the end of a two-year rulemaking process, having recently published a 45-day rule. At the end of the 45-day public comment period on November 4th, the Commissioners are expected to vote to adopt the television standard.

Massachusetts takes the lead

Massachusetts is the second state in the nation to take up the TV standard. This is not the first time that Massachusetts has been in the lead on standards. In the mid 1980's Massachusetts was one of the first states to adopt standards for refrigerators, air conditioners, and water heaters, among other products. These early standards eventually led to national standards legislation. In 2005, Massachusetts was in the lead in passing another standards bill for about 20 products. The majority of the products in the 2005 Massachusetts bill became part of national standards legislation in 2007.

This has been the standards story. Leading states, like Massachusetts and California, adopt standards and other states follow. Next, the U.S. government picks up the ball and sets national standards. For one example of how this works, let's look at the refrigerator (see graph on the 2nd page of my testimony). In 1975, the average refrigerator used over 1800 Kwh per year (blue line that looks like a mountain peak). Today, an average refrigerator, much larger and with many more features than the 1975 refrigerator, uses about 500 Kwh per year. At the same time, the price has fallen from a high of \$1270 to an average of about \$500 (in 2001\$) (pink line). Standards have played a key role in this transformation, beginning with the 1978 California standard, including a 1986 Massachusetts standard, and followed by a series of national standards, the latest taking effect in 2001. Appliance standards, as shown by this chart, are a powerful energy saving policy.

Conclusion

Passing this legislation will decrease the amount of electricity consumed in the state, save consumers and businesses money, and reduce greenhouse gases. Massachusetts has a long history of taking the lead from the Boston Tea Party to the battles of Lexington and Concord. The revolution that started here changed the nation. Massachusetts is already playing a leading role in the new energy revolution. Taking the lead on this bill, while not as big an action as 'the shot heard 'round the world', will certainly put Massachusetts in the forefront of the nation's energy revolution. We urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.

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