



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON MA 02133-1054

Frank I. Smizik

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Chairman Michael W. Morrissey
State House Room 413D
Boston, MA 02133

Chairman Barry R. Finegold
State House Room 473B
Boston, MA 02133

October 7, 2009

Dear Chairman Morrissey, Chairman Finegold, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I write today to express my support for H3124, *An Act Relative to Expanding Energy Efficiency in the Commonwealth*, and to respectfully request that the committee give it a favorable report. The current law governing the testing, certification, and enforcement of appliance efficiency standards, MGL c. 25B, omits several products, most notably televisions and portable light fixtures, for which regulation is necessary in order to continue to promote energy efficiency in the Commonwealth. This legislation establishes energy efficiency standards for a whole range of consumer appliances, including televisions, portable light fixtures, DVD players, compact audio products, bottled water dispensers, portable electric spas, and commercial hot food holding cabinets. This will result in both energy savings and a reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Television size and usage time is steadily increasing, as is the number of high-definition television users. Since high-definition products consume more energy than their analog ancestors, their popularity, along with the lack of federal regulation on their energy use, is a cause for concern. Televisions account for over 5% of residential electricity use in the Commonwealth and that figure is projected to grow to up to 10% by 2030 if business continues as usual. No mandatory federal standards for television efficiency currently exist, though there are voluntary "Energy Star" standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

While the EPA Energy Star program has been successful in promoting energy efficiency, the fact that the program is *voluntary* necessitates the use of regulation to remove the least efficient models from the market, as this is where we will achieve the greatest energy savings.

The television standards in my redraft of this legislation, which I will submit by the end of the week, are modeled after the successful pieces of the EPA Energy Star program and are also very similar to state of California's draft regulations. These standards are met and even exceeded by a sufficient number (over 250) of existing television models, such that the standards proposed by H3124 will not excessively hinder the television industry. Instead, this legislation would phase out of the market only the least efficient models for their given size categories. Removing this relatively small number of energy-wasting models will actually have a large impact on energy use in the Commonwealth, resulting in an annual statewide reduction of electricity-use of around 288 gigawatt hours by the year 2020. This, in turn, will create an annual statewide carbon emissions reduction of almost 161,000 metric tons of CO₂ by the year 2020. That savings in television energy-use also would make up between 0.7% and 1.5% of the 2020 emissions reductions targets set by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 authorized the U.S. Department of Energy to regulate the efficiency of light bulbs beginning in 2012. Portable light fixtures (i.e. floor lamps and table lamps), however, are not covered under federal regulations. The Commonwealth should, therefore, move forward with updating state regulations. The standard proposed by my redraft of H3124, which are consistent with pending federal legislation, would, by the year 2020, create a statewide annual reduction of energy use by about 83 gigawatt hours and reduce annual carbon emissions over 46,000 metric tons.

No federal standards exist for portable electric spas (hot tubs), compact audio products, DVD players and recorders, commercial hot food holding cabinets, and bottle-type water dispensers, nor are there scheduled to be standards for these products implemented in the foreseeable future. However, several states have put in place their own standards and Massachusetts would therefore not be entirely on its own in regulating these products. Four other states- California, Connecticut, Oregon, and Arizona- have regulated hot tubs. Three states -California, New York, and Oregon- have set standards on compact audio products, DVD players, and DVD recorders. Seven states- California, Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Washington- and the District of Columbia have regulated bottle-type water dispensers and commercial hot food holding cabinets. The standards in my amendments of this bill are consistent with those of the EPA's Energy Star Ratings and those of other states and will, combined, produce significant energy and carbon savings. By the year 2020, these standards will reduce statewide annual energy-use by 15 gigawatt hours for water dispensers, hot tubs, and DVD players and recorders combined; by 7 gigawatt hours for commercial hot food cabinets, and by 37 gigawatt hours for compact audio equipment.

The Commonwealth has the opportunity now to step ahead of the national curve in energy efficiency while still being consistent with the actions of several states. Consistency in standards is good for both consumers and producers. Therefore, I will be submitting amendments to you, by the end of the week, which will ensure that this bill better reflect a consistency with the standards and regulations currently used in other states. The changes will not alter the

fundamental goal of this bill, which is to reduce the Commonwealth's energy use and carbon output by mandating that certain, widely-used household products be more energy efficient.

In order to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established in the Global Warming Solutions Act, we need to look for opportunities in every sector of the economy. Setting achievable energy efficiency goals is one of the least expensive ways to reduce our consumption of energy and with it, our emissions. Cumulatively, the standards proposed in this legislation will, by the year 2020, result in an annual statewide energy savings of 430 gigawatt hours and reduce annual carbon emissions by 241,000 metric tons. In tangible terms, that amount of annual energy savings is equivalent to powering over 55,000 homes and that amount annual carbon savings is equivalent to taking over 40,000 cars off the road by 2020. Those carbon savings will put the Commonwealth approximately 1% to 2.3% closer to achieving the 2020 emissions reductions targets of the Global Warming Solutions Act, which is an impressive amount for only seven kinds of appliances to achieve.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage you to favorably report H3124, with the changes I am submitting, out of committee. I appreciate your consideration of this important issue and I look forward to working with you on the legislation.

Sincerely,

Frank I. Smizik