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Senate Votes to Improve Energy Efficiency Standards for Home Appliances

SALEM – Today, the Oregon Senate passed House Bill 2062, a bill that will improve Oregon’s efforts to increase energy efficiency in commercial appliances. The bill helps to advance the important policy contained within the Governor’s 2020 Executive Order to protect our environment and reduce harmful emissions.

“House Bill 2062 is good policy that will result in substantial greenhouse gas reductions,” said Senator Dembrow (D-Portland) who carried the bill on the Senate Floor. “In addition to known and measurable positive environmental impacts, the bill is also a cost-saver for Oregonians.”

As new technology and products come to market, Oregon’s energy efficiency standards must adapt. House Bill 2062 gives the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) the ability to update energy efficiency standards in response to changing appliance efficiency.

“It has been six years since we updated our appliance efficiency standards. Technology has changed significantly over those years. We need to give ODOE the tools they need to stay nimble and capable of updating standards in the interest of emission reductions and climate health,” said Senator Dembrow.

The Oregon Department of Energy estimated that by 2025 the appliance efficiency standards in this bill can result in annual savings of 76,500 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide and over \$35 million in savings on utility bills. It is also estimated that by 2035, these updates to appliance standards could result in annual greenhouse gas reductions of 132,500 metric tons and a savings of over \$100 million for Oregonians on utility bills.

“House Bill 2062 is a win for our environment and our community members. We will continue to see the benefits of this legislation for years to come,” said Senator Dembrow.

House Bill 2062 passed the Senate on a 17-13 vote. It passed the House of Representatives on April 7, 2021 and now goes to the Governor’s desk for her signature.

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