



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

April 16, 2013

CONTACT: Tom Powers (503) 986-1074
tom.powers@state.or.us

New appliance standards will save Oregonians energy and money

SB 692A steps up energy efficiency requirements for household appliances; SB 840A conserves water

SALEM—Today the Oregon Senate voted to step up energy efficiency standards for household appliances and plumbing equipment. SB 692A will make it easier for Oregonians to purchase energy-saving items and could save millions on consumer energy bills in the coming years. A companion bill, SB 840A, also passed the Senate today and will help conserve water used in plumbing. Both bills passed by a 19-9 margin.

“Requiring our appliances to use energy more efficiently will help Oregon meet its conservation goals while also saving consumers a good deal of money over the long run,” Senator Jackie Dingfelder (D-Portland), chair of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. “Keeping Oregon at the forefront of efficiency standards nationwide provides customers greater access to televisions, battery chargers, and other devices that have a lower energy footprint.”

In June 2005, the Oregon Legislature passed minimum energy efficiency requirements for 11 types of appliances, including washing machines and DVD players. The Legislature added more devices to the list in the 2007 session. The standards included in SB 692A bring Oregon’s requirements for energy-efficient appliances in line with those in California, helping to ensure that manufacturers that do not meet the highest standards won’t be dumped across the border here in Oregon.

“These new efficiency standards will make it a little bit easier to pay the bills each month, freeing up more money in Oregonians’ pockets,” said Sen. Alan Bates (D-Medford). “My district shares a border with California, and creating a single standard along the West Coast will keep manufacturers from flooding the Oregon market with energy-wasting products.”

Senate Bill 840A will apply new standards for toilets, urinals, faucets, and showerheads to limit the amount of water used by plumbing appliances in homes and businesses.

Taken together, the new efficiency standards included in SB 692A and SB 840A will ultimately save consumers millions of dollars every year in reduced water and electricity bills. The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance projects that the higher plumbing and electricity requirements will save nearly \$25 million per year.

“These bills will cut down on utility costs for homes and businesses by giving Oregonians the opportunity to buy the most innovative and efficient appliances out there,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-

Portland). “Higher standards will also help Oregon make wise use of its natural resources and lead to more sustainable energy use patterns.”

SB 692A and SB 840A will now go to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

###

For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit www.orsenatemajority.org