



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, SVP, Government Affairs
DATE: April 16, 2024
RE: Hold off considering HB 1615 – Appliance efficiency bill

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I urge you to hold off considering HB 1615, which would mandate energy efficiency and water conservation standards for commercial and residential appliances in the Commonwealth and is scheduled to be considered in committee today.

This bill appears well intended but has prompted serious questions and concerns, including provisions that authorize DEP to both unilaterally increase standards and add new categories to the list of covered appliances. A range of industries have expressed other concerns as well, for example:

- Restaurants and grocery stores worry about imposing standards more stringent than federal levels and the resulting increased costs to opening and maintaining their business;
- Nonprofits, such as food pantries and soup kitchens, have similar concerns with cost increases and their ability to accept donated equipment, which is critical to their ability to fulfill their important missions;
- Retail predicts they will lose business to their competitors in other states.

We understand and appreciate that an amendment may address some of these concerns. However, given the significant implications of this bill, we urge you to hold off considering it today and engage with stakeholders to at least understand their concerns before proceeding. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.