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PRESS RELEASE

APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS PASS THE COLORADO HOUSE

(Denver) - In a show of bi-partisan support the Colorado House of Representatives passed a measure to make certain appliances sold in Colorado more energy-efficient. The Appliance Efficiency Standards, HB 1162, establishes minimum efficiency standards on 15 appliances not already covered by federal efficiency standards. If these standards go into law, it is estimated that they will save Colorado consumers and businesses over \$500 million.

"I am thrilled that my colleagues passed this common sense policy to move our state away from expensive natural gas and electricity, and towards cleaner energy solutions," said Representative Alice Borodkin who is sponsoring this bill. "I encourage the Senate to follow our lead and the will of the voters who supported clean energy on the ballot this past November."

Connecticut, California, Maryland and New Jersey have already adopted efficiency standards on these products and others. Washington, Arizona and other state legislatures are also considering similar legislation. "It is encouraging and exciting to be part of a multi-state effort supporting these efficiency standards," said Representative Borodkin.

"The efficiency standards will save consumers and businesses money, reduce pollutant emissions, and save water. It is refreshing to see the legislature act in a bipartisan manner to advance practical solutions to Colorado's economic and environmental challenges," stated Howard Geller, Executive Director of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP).

Select light fixtures, exit signs, traffic signals, pool pumps, commercial refrigerators and freezers, commercial clothes washers, and AC-to-DC power converters are among the products included.

"Colorado continues to grow and demand more energy; traditionally this has meant another coal or natural gas power plant. However efficiency is the cleanest and cheapest source of energy and it is heartening to see our legislature recognize this," said Stephanie Bonin, Environment Colorado Energy Advocate.

The bill was passed by the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee by a 12-to-1 vote on February 2, 2005. HB 1162 now goes to the Senate for consideration.

For more information on energy efficiency, visit www.swenergy.org or www.environmentcolorado.org

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