



**Southwest Energy Efficiency Project**  
*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS VETOED BY GOVERNOR OWENS** ***Standards would have saved Colorado businesses and consumers over \$500 million***

*(Boulder, CO)* -- The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) denounces Governor Bill Owens for vetoing House Bill 1162, state appliance energy efficiency standards. This legislation would have established minimum energy efficiency requirements on 14 products sold in Colorado starting in 2008.

“Consumers and businesses are being hammered by high energy costs and are crying out for help. With his veto, Governor Owens demonstrated that he is insensitive to their needs,” stated Howard Geller, Executive Director of SWEEP. SWEEP estimates that the standards would have saved businesses and consumers in Colorado over \$500 million on their energy bills.

There was broad support for these energy efficiency requirements in the Colorado legislature. The bill passed the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee on a 12-1 vote and the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee on a 6-1 vote. State standards similar to those vetoed by Governor Owens were enacted last week in Arizona, with the majority of Republicans in the legislature supporting them.

There is a tradition of bipartisan support for cost-effective appliance efficiency standards. National appliance efficiency standards were signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1987 and President George Bush, Sr. in 1992. “It is disappointing that Governor Owens is unwilling to support a common sense, bipartisan policy,” stated Geller.

“In vetoing this bill, which would have lowered energy consumption without altering anyone’s lifestyle, the Governor turned a win-win policy for consumers and the environment into a loss for all,” said Stephanie Bonin, Energy Advocate for Environment Colorado.

Some of the standards included in the bill save water as well as energy. Also, there would have been water savings from reduced operation of utility power plants. “Colorado will consume over 14 billion gallons more water than is necessary during 2008-2020 thanks to the Governor’s veto,” Bonin noted.

The products covered in the bill include torchiere-style light fixtures, exit signs, reflector lamps, pool pumps, commercial refrigerators and freezers, icemakers, AC-DC converters for electronic devices, pre-rinse spray nozzles used in commercial kitchens, and traffic signals. These products

are not covered under federal energy efficiency standards. Arizona, California, Connecticut, Maryland, and New Jersey have already adopted energy efficiency standards on these products.

SWEEP thanks Representative Alice Borodkin and Senator Ken Gordon, sponsors of the House Bill 1162 in the Colorado legislature. SWEEP will continue to support the legislation if it is reintroduced in the future.

**About SWEEP:** The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. For more information, visit the SWEEP website at [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).