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August 9, 2018

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Perry:

I am writing to urge the Department of Energy (DOE) not to roll back lightbulb energy efficiency standards that have spurred innovation and will save both energy and money for American families. Between 2020 and 2050, these lightbulb efficiency standards are expected to save consumers \$666 billion and reduce carbon emissions by nearly 1.7 billion metric tons.¹

Under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Congress mandated that, by January 1, 2020, any “general service lamp” (GSL) must have a minimum efficiency standard of 45 lumens per watt.² Rules subsequently issued by the Department of Energy under the Obama administration that will take effect on January 1, 2020 broadened the types of lightbulbs required to meet that standard, expanding them to include, for example, incandescent reflector lamps commonly used in bathroom vanities and track and recessed lighting.³

Lightbulb efficiency standards have catalyzed substantial innovation among lightbulb manufacturers, leading to the increased market penetration of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs, which can easily meet the 45-lumens-per-watt standard, something that Thomas Edison-era incandescent bulbs simply cannot

¹ Appliance Standards Awareness Project and American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, *US light bulb standards save billions for consumers but manufacturers seek a rollback: Appendix* (Jul. 2018), https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/light_bulb_brief_appendices.pdf, at 5-6.

² 42 U.S.C. § 6295(i)(6)(a)(v).

³ Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for General Service Lamps, 82 Fed. Reg. 7322 (Jan. 19, 2017), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/19/2016-32012/energy-conservation-program-energy-conservation-standards-for-general-service-lamps>.

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do. And due to their longer lifespan and greater efficiency, CFLs and LEDs provide the brightness of old-fashioned incandescent bulbs at a much lower cost.⁴

Manufacturers have had thirteen years to invest with certainty in the forthcoming efficiency standards, and consumers are already reaping the benefits. I urge you to see the light, and to protect lightbulb rules that provide certainty for industry, reduce costs for consumers, save energy, and help protect the environment.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

⁴ *CFLs vs. LEDs: The Better Bulbs*, Green America, <https://www.greenamerica.org/green-living/cfls-vs-leds-better-bulbs>.