

TO: The Honorable Members of the PA House Energy Committee

FROM: Amy Brinton, Director, Government Affairs

DATE: March 17, 2025

RE: **Oppose HB 660 – Energy Efficiency Appliance Standards**

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (PA Chamber), I am writing to express our opposition to HB 660, which mandates energy and water efficiency standards for certain commercial and residential appliances sold in the Commonwealth. The bill is scheduled for Committee consideration today.

While we fully appreciate the intent behind this legislation, we have heard concerns from various stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- **Restaurants and Grocery Stores:** Imposing energy and water efficiency standards that are more stringent than federal levels will create additional costs for many businesses already grappling with inflation, supply chain challenges, and workforce shortages. An increase in costs makes it more difficult to operate, potentially leading to higher prices for consumers or, in the worst-case scenario, the closure of our local restaurants and small businesses.
- **Nonprofits:** Organizations such as food pantries, soup kitchens, and other mission-driven nonprofits depend heavily on donations, including donated equipment. Many of these organizations serve low-income communities and will face significant challenges if they are unable to accept equipment that does not meet the new, higher standards. This could severely limit their ability to fulfill their important missions and further strain resources in underserved areas.
- **Retailers:** Retail businesses are concerned that these new standards will create a competitive disadvantage with businesses in neighboring states that do not face similar regulations. The result could be lost sales and jobs, as consumers may choose to shop in other states, leaving Pennsylvania businesses at a disadvantage.

At a time when businesses and consumers are already facing rising costs in many areas, from food to energy, this bill threatens to further increase prices for everyday goods and services, and exacerbates financial strains already being felt by so many Pennsylvanians. Therefore, for these reasons, we must oppose HB 660.

Please contact Amy Brinton via email at abrinton@pachamber.org, or via phone at 717-720-5565.