

Manning	Phillips	Stansbury
Matsui	Pingree	Stanton
McBath	Pocan	Stevens
McClellan	Porter	Strickland
McCollum	Pressley	Suozi
McGarvey	Quigley	Swalwell
McGovern	Ramirez	Sykes
Meeks	Raskin	Takano
Menendez	Rosendale	Thanedar
Meng	Ross	Thompson (CA)
Mfume	Ruiz	Thompson (MS)
Morelle	Ruppersberger	Titus
Moulton	Ryan	Tlaib
Mrvan	Salinas	Tokuda
Mullin	Sarbanes	Tonko
Nadler	Scanlon	Torres (CA)
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Torres (NY)
Neal	Schiff	Trahan
Neguse	Schneider	Trone
Nickel	Scholten	Underwood
Norcross	Schrier	Vargas
Ocasio-Cortez	Scott (VA)	Vasquez
Omar	Scott, David	Veasey
Pallone	Sewell	Velázquez
Panetta	Sherman	Wasserman
Pappas	Sherrill	Schultz
Pascarella	Slotkin	Waters
Pelosi	Smith (WA)	Watson Coleman
Perez	Sorensen	Wexton
Peters	Soto	Wild
Pettersen	Spanberger	Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—27

Babin	Gimenez	Massie
Crenshaw	Granger	Mast
Davis (IL)	Griffith	Moore (WI)
Diaz-Balart	Grijalva	Moskowitz
Donalds	Guest	Peltola
Evans	Harder (CA)	Salazar
Galleo	Hunt	Sánchez
Garamendi	Jackson Lee	Weber (TX)
Garcia (TX)	Luttrell	Wilson (FL)

□ 1358

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to travel cancellations and delays relating to Hurricane Beryl that hit the Houston area, I was unable to vote during today's first vote series at 1:30 p.m.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 338, H. Res. 1341, the motion on ordering the previous question; and NO on Roll Call No. 339, H. Res. 1341, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 7700—Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act; H.R. 7637—Refrigerator Freedom Act; H.J. Res. 165—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Non-discrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance;” H.R. 8281—Safe-guard American Voter Eligibility Act; and H.R. 8772—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2025.

STOP UNAFFORDABLE DISHWASHER STANDARDS ACT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1341, I call up the bill (H.R. 7700) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for dishwashers that are not cost-effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7700

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act”.

SEC. 2. PRESCRIBING AND ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR DISHWASHERS.

(a) TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a dishwasher under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is technologically feasible and economically justified; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a dishwasher if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is not technologically feasible or economically justified.

(b) PROHIBITION ON INCREASED COSTS TO CONSUMERS.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a dishwasher under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is not likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a dishwasher if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product.

(c) SIGNIFICANT ENERGY SAVINGS REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a dishwasher under such section if the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a dishwasher if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy.

(d) COVERED PRODUCT; ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—In this section, the terms “covered product” and “energy conservation standard” have the meanings given such terms in section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7700.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7700, Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, and I thank Congressman LANGWORTHY for leading these efforts.

The Biden administration has lost sight of the original intent behind the Department of Energy conservation standards. Instead, they are contradicting the statutes and doing so at the expense of Americans' quality of life, their pocketbooks, and their energy bills.

Instead of harnessing the abundant resources we are blessed with in this country, the Biden administration wants to lower your standard of living by telling you what appliances you can have in your home, and they want you to pay more for it.

An analysis from the Department of Energy found that their dishwasher efficiency mandates would increase the upfront cost by up to 28 percent. It is estimated that these proposed standards may take consumers over 16 years to pay back the increased cost on a dishwasher that won't even last 12 years.

The Biden administration has abused the Department of Energy's appliance standard program to go beyond the authority granted to them by Congress by proposing these overreaching standards.

Americans will suffer the consequences of the Biden administration's rush-to-green agenda.

The DOE's net zero rush-to-green energy agenda is reaching into your home to impose cost increasing regulations on appliances in every corner of your home.

We have debated gas stoves and other appliances here, and now here we are today debating on dishwashers.

The Biden administration has proposed over 15 regulations that affect appliances, like I mentioned, not only gas stoves but hot water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, and now dishwashers.

They argue these regulations will save money and reduce emissions, but that is just simply not the case. One study found these regulations could increase the cost for the average American family by over \$9,000.

These increased efficiency standards mean Americans need to run their appliances twice as long to get the same effect, and we all know it. You run the dishwasher, you open it up, the dishes aren't clean, and you have got to run it again. It happens to every American family multiple times. You are not saving money. You are not saving water and electricity running your highly efficient appliances when you have to run them two or three times just to get the dishes clean or to get them dry.

This bill would prevent this abuse from the DOE, and it will prevent the Department from enforcing standards on dishwashers unless they are technologically feasible and economically justified, they are not likely to result in additional costs to the customer, and they won't enforce the standards unless they will result in a significant conservation of energy. American families know that is just simply not happening in their homes.

I urge all my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 7700, Stop the Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, to protect affordability and preserve the quality of life that Americans expect and deserve.

I thank Representative LANGWORTHY for leading this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today's debate demonstrates why House Republicans simply cannot govern. This bill, H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, doesn't need to be brought up today because House Republicans already passed it 2 months ago as part of another larger bill.

In other words, today's debate is a waste of our time. It is clearly being brought up because Republicans simply don't have any other bills to bring to the floor. They are fresh out of ideas that can meet the approval of the extreme elements in their party.

Now, at a time, Mr. Speaker, when the American people want us to work together to build on the progress we have made to grow our economy for the future and lower everyday costs for American families, the House Republican majority wants to have another debate about protecting dishwashers even though this legislation will increase home energy bills on the average American family.

This bill would gut popular energy efficiency standards for dishwashers. Energy efficiency standards are popular for three key reasons. First, they save Americans money on their energy bills. Second, they boost innovation by modernizing appliances for the future. Third, they reduce greenhouse gas pollution in our ongoing efforts to combat the climate crisis.

□ 1415

The Biden administration's past and planned energy efficiency actions will save Americans \$1 trillion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.5 billion metric tons over the next 30 years. I will repeat that: They will save Americans \$1 trillion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.5 billion metric tons over the next 30 years. That is why there is so much support for these efficiency standards. This is something we should all support.

This used to be a bipartisan issue, but not anymore. Extreme Republicans have decided that they would rather do the bidding of corporate polluters as they continue to move forward with their polluters-over-people agenda.

H.R. 7700 attacks a popular and effective Department of Energy program that saves Americans money by setting efficiency standards on household appliances. It adds burdensome and duplicative language to the Department of Energy's process without defining any of its vague metrics.

This bill completely ignores the mechanisms and practices that already exist at the Department of Energy. Worst of all, it gravely threatens the Department of Energy's ability to implement and enforce the already-finalized dishwasher standards. In pushing this legislation, Republicans ignore the fact that the Department of Energy already must ensure that the standards are economically justifiable, technically feasible, and result in energy savings. Before the standards are put in place by the Department of Energy, it has to meet those standards.

In fact, the process works so well that the dishwasher standard targeted by this bill was actually the result of a consensus agreement between industry, efficiency advocates, and consumer advocates. Industry supports the standards. I don't know who supports the repeal, essentially, of these standards.

If my colleagues look at the details of the dishwasher efficiency standard, they will understand why there is so much support for it. The standard hasn't been updated in over a decade, and the new rules are expected to save Americans over \$3 billion on utility bills over 30 years. That is real savings, and the standards are attainable.

Dishwashers that meet the new standards are already on the market. People can buy them now. It doesn't even go into effect until 2027, but consumers can already buy these now because people want them.

It is clear that the appliance manufacturing industry doesn't feel burdened by the new standards. They support them.

Therefore, one has to question, again, why Republicans continue to fight against these commonsense standards. I have no idea other than their corporate and polluter friends.

The bill, along with the next bill we are debating, would not just impact the Department of Energy's ability to im-

plement the recently finalized standards, but it would also effectively overturn them. I want to stress that. These absurd bills include a provision that prohibits DOE from enforcing new or existing standards if they increase costs by even a penny, completely disregarding the massive consumer savings on future monthly home energy bills.

My point is, over a period of time, consumers will save a lot of money. My colleagues are saying if it just costs an extra penny at any point, then it shouldn't be allowed. This simply defies logic.

Again, the bill is designed to protect the interests of Republicans' oil and gas friends. The bill would create market uncertainty and threaten real savings for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the bill because it will increase home energy costs for American families and undermine our ongoing efforts to combat the worsening climate crisis. I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the legislation would prevent the Department from enforcing standards on dishwashers unless they are technologically feasible and economically justified, unless they are not likely to result in additional costs to a consumer, and unless they will result in significant conservation of energy.

Americans know that this new standard and even older standards are not working. They are having to wash their dishes multiple times.

We have seen over and over agencies overreaching the constitutional mandate they were given. Thank goodness the Supreme Court last week overturned the Chevron deference, and now Congress can use other tools like pieces of legislation to direct agencies on what they should do and the limits they can do it under.

Sure, there is other legislation we ought to take up, but we have had to use Congressional Review Act legislation. We have had to use legislation like this to push back against these agencies and their overreach.

Thankfully, Mr. LANGWORTHY knows a lot about this. He filed the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act, which will put the brakes on the Biden administration's relentless assault on efficient, affordable, and reliable appliances for everyday Americans through overbearing regulations.

When Congress enacted the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, the goal was straightforward: encourage a more efficient use of energy that is both practical and cost-efficient. Yet, the Biden administration has

abused and twisted this law beyond recognition to serve the radical, woke environmentalist agenda of the far left.

They are not just out of touch. They are making life more expensive for hardworking Americans. In fact, the Biden administration's own analysis of the proposed rule for the new efficiency standards admits that it would take more than 12 years for an American family to see \$17 in savings—\$17 over 12 years, and that is if their dishwasher lasts that long, which is really doubtful. This is a textbook example of Big Government overreach.

Here is the bottom line: Our country is in the midst of a historic affordability crisis. Millions of Americans cannot afford to buy their first home or even save for a rainy day. What does this Biden administration do? They pile on more regulations, more requirements, and higher standards onto the most basic household appliances.

To my friends across the aisle who disparage this legislation here today as trivial and unimportant, I encourage them to go explain right now to the average American family, already crushed by this Biden economy, that their daily struggles with skyrocketing costs don't matter. Go explain to seniors in my district living on fixed incomes why they should shell out thousands more to replace their basic home appliances to satisfy some radical environmentalist pipe dream. Go tell them that they should take a back seat to the Green New Deal agenda. Go tell them that the Biden administration knows better about what is best for them.

Why should Americans who are putting their groceries on credit cards be forced to deal with more out-of-touch, expensive regulations? The hardworking families, seniors, and constituents in my district might not matter to the Biden administration, but they matter to me.

That is why I introduced this legislation. By stripping away consumer choice and imposing draconian new regulations and standards that make absolutely no sense from an affordability and efficiency standpoint, this administration is making life harder for the American people, pure and simple.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. We cannot tackle this affordability crisis facing our country today if we don't stop the Biden administration's regulatory agenda dead in its tracks. I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 7700.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7637 and H.R. 7700, both of which are being considered this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that Republicans went home for Independence

Day, reflected upon all that great holiday means, and, as their first order of business back in D.C., brought up these redundant, anticonsumer bills.

Let it not be said that House Republicans don't care about people's rights. These bills support the rights of Chinese manufacturers to dump cheap, inferior products into the U.S. market. These bills support the right for utilities to bill Americans more just for keeping their refrigerators plugged in or running their dishwashers.

Strong efficiency standards reduce energy use and are proven to save Americans hundreds of dollars each and every year. These bills support the right of landlords to stick their renters with low-performing appliances.

Strong efficiency standards raise the bar for everyone. DOE's efficiency standards are required by law to be cost-effective, and they result in major savings for every American household. They also reduce energy demand, which makes our electric grid more reliable.

The refrigerator and dishwasher standards, which would be undone by the bills before us today, reflect the consensus of energy efficiency advocates, consumer advocates, and American home appliance manufacturers. That is right: Our own domestic manufacturers recognize the benefits of these standards and truly support DOE's rules.

We have wasted enough time. We have wasted enough energy already. Let's not stand in the way of the Department of Energy and American manufacturers that want to support the development of the next generation of innovative, cost-effective, and energy efficient appliances.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Members to do the proconsumer and patriotic thing by rejecting these bills today.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act or the SUDS Act.

Time and again, we have seen the Biden administration's radical rush-to-green agenda negatively impact the lives of hardworking Americans, including their freedom to choose what household appliances meet their needs—first, gas stoves, and now, dishwashers and refrigerators. It is hard to believe that under this administration, the most regulated space in America is the kitchen and laundry room.

Under the guise of energy efficiency, this administration is issuing new standards that will significantly drive up costs, reduce reliability, and jeopardize the availability of numerous home appliances.

House Republicans will continue to lead on legislative solutions that protect American families from out-of-touch, top-down rules. The American people want choice.

When I talk to my constituents in Georgia's 12th District, they want relief from record inflation and rising prices. Yet, the Biden administration is moving forward with issuing standards that could increase the upfront cost of dishwashers by 28 percent and the upfront cost of refrigerators by 25 percent, according to the DOE's own analysis.

President Biden's war on American energy is crushing families' budgets nationwide, which is why I am proud to support the SUDS Act, as well as legislation being debated later today that will protect affordability, quality, and choice for residential dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on these bills.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7700. It is a bill that will saddle American families with higher costs.

This is not a serious bill, but it is rather emblematic of the least protective Congress in modern times. Rather than focus on improving the lives of our neighbors back home and lowering costs, Republicans, as my colleague from New York said, went home for the Fourth of July recess and talked to their neighbors about what the Congress could do to improve their lives, and the first bill that they bring up on the floor is one to gut energy efficient dishwashers.

Let's talk about energy efficiency because it is popular. Where does it come from? Years ago, the Congress acted in a bipartisan way and directed the Department of Energy to every few years update efficiency standards for the appliances that power our lives: our air conditioners, dishwashers, refrigerators. American manufacturers have responded.

Americans know this. Our appliances have gotten better and better over time. They save us money. They save us water. That is really important right now, that we can put a little bit more money back into our pockets. It is a win-win-win for us.

I have already heard some misleading statements on the floor today, and I think we need to clear those up.

When the Department of Energy creates new efficiency standards, whether it is for dishwashers or other appliances, it does so in collaboration with industry, with the support of industry and appliance manufacturers. The final standards for dishwashers were adopted in April, and they reflect the recommendations from the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. That is a trade association of 30 leading appliance makers.

□ 1430

Second, they have said that this is a mandate and that all Americans have to go buy these dishwashers.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are smart. They know that is not true. If you want an inefficient dishwasher or if you want to return to the days of hand-washing your dishes, then that is your right to do so. However, it is important that we prod appliance makers to be more innovative and to be more efficient. The guiding star—in fact, it is called Energy Star—is to save consumers money, to cut pollution, and to help put a little more money back in their pockets.

In creating new energy efficiency standards, DOE does so with consumer savings as its guiding force. According to the agency calculations, consumers will save \$3.2 billion on utility bills over 30 years from the dishwasher standards alone.

For my neighbors back home in Florida who are paying exorbitant electric bills right now because they don't use the power of the sunshine, they are mostly on gas, boy, this is a godsend for them to be able to put some money back into their pockets.

Since we have so much time to debate dishwashers today, I will spend a little time on a public service announcement.

Mr. Speaker, if you go to energy.gov/save, there are additional savings for you and your family. There are rebates on appliances and new heat pumps. There are tax credits for various appliances and upgrading your home. Many of these were adopted by Democrats in a Democratic-led Congress in the Inflation Reduction Act. That is our historic clean energy and climate resilience law. It has been difficult to get through the noise of this chaotic Congress to make sure that families understand the cost savings that are available to them, but that is at energy.gov/save. There are enormous rebates and tax credits to help you with the cost of living.

The Consumer Federation of America, a consumer advocacy group, said about the new dishwasher efficiency standard: The Department of Energy's new efficiency standards for dishwashers are a significant victory for both consumers and the environment. The standards require simple changes that will positively impact most households.

If the appliance makers, consumer advocacy groups, and environmental organizations all support the Department of Energy's energy efficiency standards, I know many of you are wondering, then why do House Republicans oppose them?

Another common theme in this chaotic Congress has been the Republicans' allegiance to polluters and utility companies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I was about to answer the question on everyone's mind: Why would anyone oppose put-

ting money back into the pockets of hardworking American families?

It is because the GOP is so aligned with oil and gas companies that they want you to use as much energy as possible. The utility companies want you to use as much energy as possible, Mr. Speaker, because that benefits their bottom line and not yours.

Rather than do the dirty work for polluters and electric utilities, I would say: Let's stand up for the families we represent and put money back into their pockets. Whether it is a dishwasher, a refrigerator, an AC, or whatever it is, they need a little bit of relief. We are here to serve them and not the special interest groups.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CASTEN).

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, we often talk about kitchen table issues, and what better time to elevate those issues than this week, which you all have declared in honor of refrigerator freedom.

Specifically, as I was walking around July Fourth, I heard a lot of issues from my constituents about refrigerators.

Some of them asked: Who put the meat in the crisper drawer?

That was a big fight.

Why aren't you using the egg holder for your eggs?

If you use the last of the mustard, don't just put it back in the fridge; go to the store and get some more mustard.

That is a fight.

There is the always controversial: Should we or should we not replace a perfectly good refrigerator just because it doesn't match our cabinets?

These are the real issues that are bothering Americans around their kitchen table when they talk about refrigerators. If those sound silly, I will only point out that those issues are vastly more important, more substantive, and are legitimate points of debate. You can argue both sides of any of those issues more than anything in this bill because this bill doesn't address those issues. All it does is gut efficiency standards that if left in place will save American consumers more than \$3 billion on their utility bills over the next three decades.

I am going to say this very slowly so everybody across the aisle can understand: If you save energy, then you don't have to pay for energy.

I think you all know this, Mr. Speaker, because some of you have probably at some point said to your kids: Shut the window. I have got the AC on. I don't want to waste energy. I don't want to waste money when I cool my house.

That is the same thing here in these standards.

Also, I think, as anybody who has ever sat around a kitchen table knows, Americans kind of like to save money on their energy bills. Here we find ourselves with efficiency standards in place that lower Americans' utility bills, and Republicans are proposing legislation to block Americans from access to cheaper energy in the name of refrigerator freedom. God bless refrigerators.

I oppose this bill because it is bad for consumers, it is bad for the environment, and, quite honestly, it is bad for this institution because it is a waste of our time.

Furthermore, at the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If House rules permitted, I would have offered this motion with an important amendment to this bill, and my amendment would require that the act not take effect until the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a certification that this act, including amendments made by this act, will not result in higher energy costs for American consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for this motion to recommit.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's own Department of Energy in their analysis finds that efficiency mandates could increase the upfront costs by 28 percent and it could take consumers 12 years to pay back the increased cost on a product like a dishwasher that may only last 7 to 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to take you 12 years to pay for something that may wear out in 7 years based on DOE's own analysis. That makes no sense.

The gentlewoman mentioned earlier that Republicans were not wanting to help American consumers, that they want to take money out of their pocket. This is actually the opposite of that. We are wanting to help save the American public money over time by stopping these reckless rush-to-green regulations like we are voting on today dealing with both refrigerators and dishwashers and then gas stoves but only because they have a green agenda that really wants to do away with fossil fuels. Let's just call it what it is. That is their agenda, to end the use of fossil fuels in the United States of America at a time when we, as a growing nation, growing population, and growing metropolitan centers, need more energy. The demand for energy is only going up. It is not going down. The continued war against American-

produced fossil fuels is costing Americans' ability to improve their quality of life and their standard of living.

We need to continue debating the need for efficient, reliable, affordable, and dispatchable energy resources, something that is 24/7/365 always on, always ready, always available, not weather-dependent, and not sunlight-dependent, intermittent energy sources. We need to continue debating that. Instead, we are having to push back against an administration that, under broad legislation passed by the United States Congress, has given them the ability to write rules and make regulations without the necessary congressional oversight in many cases. That is why, I believe, the Supreme Court overturned the Chevron deference to say that these agencies don't just have *carte blanche* to do whatever political agenda pushes them in the mindset to do.

I think Congress needs to focus on really defining what those rules are in the legislation we pass here, and I think that is what the Supreme Court is ultimately going to force us to do. They made it very clear with no ambivalence and no ambiguity.

We have a Nation that is hurting because of the Biden economic factors that are causing inflation. It started with energy on day one by stopping the Keystone pipeline, ending lease sales on the Outer Continental Shelf, destroying the American energy base.

The Democrats will say: Well, energy production is up.

It is, but it is up because of past administration policies that expanded oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf and on Federal land. These things don't pop up out of the ground overnight. It takes decades sometimes to get an energy product to producing. The permitting process alone takes years. Then you have to find the resource and produce the resource and get it online where Americans can benefit from it.

Guess who else can benefit from it, Mr. Speaker. The world can. With the abundance of natural gas we have in this country, we could be a tremendous exporter. We export a lot, but we could do a lot more because of the abundance of natural gas we have here to help the quality of life and standard of living of people all over the globe. Yet this administration says we are going to put this pause, which was basically a ban, on LNG exports.

That hurts our allies in Europe who are facing Vladimir Putin's cutting on and off the spigot of natural gas. It hurts folks around the world who are in energy poverty, and America could help raise them out of that poverty.

Americans know they are hurting because it started with energy. We talk a lot about that. Americans also see a border that is wide open and 16-plus million people who have crossed our southern border who are raping and killing American citizens. The crime rates are going up in cities. They are

straining our social services at the State level and in our own communities causing our property taxes to go up and our State income taxes to go up to pay for folks who aren't even legally in the United States of America. That is because of Joe Biden's open-border policies.

Sure, we ought to debate a lot of things in this Congress instead of debating regulations on efficiency standards on dishwashers, gas stoves, refrigerators, freezers, and all these things, but the Biden administration has definitely overreached in these areas. It is because they have a green agenda that they are pushing.

Republicans want to help Americans maintain their standard of living, improve their standard of living, and improve their quality of life. We can do that by lowering taxes. We can do that by improving the economy which the Biden economic policies have not done. We saw tremendous spending in the IRA and other things. More government spending equates to higher inflation. That is not me saying it. That is economists all over the globe who understand that simple concept.

We want to improve the quality of life of people and not make their appliances that they rely on every day be less efficient, cost more, and in the case of dishwashers, having to pay for something that wore out 3 or 4 years ago and they are still paying on it. If you factor in the cost savings, it is pennies a day. In fact, it is probably pennies a year. It gets into less than a \$20 savings over the life of the appliance. That is not saving the American people money.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7700, the Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act. Let's protect affordability, and let's preserve the quality of life for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. I think it is important before we legislate on something to know something about it. I know a lot about dishwashers because I am a single mom, and I load, unload, load, unload, rinse, and buy detergent.

So I wonder if the gentleman who is supporting this legislation about dishwashers and proposing to be an expert in what the American people want in their dishwashers would be willing to engage in a little colloquy with me about dishwashers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Are you willing to engage in this?

Representative DUNCAN, I would like to know if you know what the average utility cost is per month to run a dishwasher?

No. He doesn't know. It is \$2 to \$4 a month.

In other words, about one-third of a frappuccino: \$2 to \$4 a month.

□ 1445

Mr. DUNCAN, do you know about how much a dishwasher costs, Representative DUNCAN, like a mid-range dishwasher?

Nope, he doesn't know. About \$800, \$900. If you want to get fancier, like a thousand.

Representative DUNCAN, do you know the best ways and the most important things you can do to make your dishwasher get the dishes clean?

Nope. The gentleman is not a dishwasher expert. Loading it correctly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Member will be reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, do you know what the most important technique is to load a dishwasher correctly? It is loading it correctly.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot about the Biden so-called border crisis. What I haven't heard about is anything about dishwashers. As somebody who saved and scrimped and was so proud to get a new dishwasher and can tell you a lot about them, what they cost, what kinds of features they have, how to load it properly, which I wish every person, every man and child in America, would listen to their wife—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PORTER. I wish everyone would listen to their spouse about how to load the dishwasher correctly. Those are the most important things that make your dishes get clean.

This bill is ridiculous. It is Congress at its worst, a bunch of people who haven't unloaded a dishwasher ever telling the American people with legislation what kind of dishwashers they should or should not be able to buy.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to address the gentlewoman, I wasn't going to engage in a colloquy on the floor during a debate on this issue, but I do load and unload the dishwasher.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that, many times, I have opened the dishwasher, loaded properly, with the right amount of dishwashing liquid or pod put in, that all the dishes aren't clean. They were rinsed off before they were put in, to the gentlewoman.

I would run it again. Americans know this. This isn't just me and my household. Americans know they have to run the dishwasher oftentimes more than once.

How is that a cost savings? How is it a cost savings when you have to run it more than once?

Americans know you open that dishwasher after its cycle, and apparently the heating component of the efficiency standards didn't dry the dishes, so they get them out before they put them in the cabinet because you don't want to put wet dishes up. You get a towel down, and you dry every one of them off. Cup, knife, fork, plate, pan, you dry it off before you put it up.

Mr. Speaker, you might as well have just washed it in the sink versus using an inefficient dishwasher that is becoming more and more inefficient based on these standards. I am not going to stand here and be lectured by someone who seemed very pious about dishwashers or washing laundry or loading a refrigerator properly to stay away from the hotspots because we are going to go to refrigerators next.

I am sure some of these same comments are going to be brought up. Guess what, I don't have to because the American people know. The American people know what they deal with every day, and they know they are going to pay more for an appliance that is less efficient, and they may still be paying for it when the thing is worn out. That is unfair to the American people. We should be about improving the standard of living and quality of life of Americans.

I will address one other thing that the gentlewoman said: the so-called border crisis. Every American knows we have a border crisis. We have had over 16 million people in our country not with a visa, not with a permission slip, to come here illegally. They reside in our communities because guess what? Every State is a border State now, even California and even South Carolina, where I come from because these migrants have been bussed or flown at taxpayer expense into our communities.

I won't stand here and hear it be called a so-called border crisis because Americans know it is a border crisis when 16 million people illegally enter. We are not talking about 6, but 16 million or more. Those are just the ones we know about.

What about the ones that the Border Patrol see cross the border, who go into the bushes, and they go after them? They can't find them, and they are not counted in the got-away numbers because they have been told that those migrants may have gone back across the border, so they are not counting those numbers.

What about the ones who cross the border in areas that aren't patrolled currently, those people who come through who have no encounter with law enforcement at all, who are never counted. They may have nefarious goals in mind because all of these illegal aliens that have crossed our border aren't just from Mexico or Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Latin-American countries. A lot of them are com-

ing from China and Russia and the Middle East. America knows we have no idea who is in our country.

Let me say that again: Americans, we have no idea who is in our country.

When I got into this conversation about energy prices and the border and economics and inflation, high interest rates, cost of goods costing more now than they did 4 years ago, oftentimes 28, 30, 35 percent more, Americans know. They don't want to pay more for an appliance that is inefficient. That is the gist of this debate.

Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I go back to the dishwashers and clarify some of the facts here. Republicans are throwing around a lot of numbers that I believe are not true. Yesterday, at the Rules Committee, we heard from Republicans that the new dishwasher standards will take 12 years for consumers to break even, and Members cited Department of Energy as a source for this number.

However, the 12-year payback period is in reference to a DOE evaluation of a proposed standard from May of last year. Department of Energy didn't actually adopt that rule. The actual payback period for the rule that was finalized is 3.9 years, and the estimated average lifetime of the dishwasher is way longer.

DOE estimates that the price increase for dishwashers going from the lowest efficiency to the new minimum efficiency standard required will be \$26, and these \$26 will be paid back in less than 4 years.

Additionally, the price of most dishwashers is not expected to increase at all. Many models already meet the standards or only require small adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are using old data to trivialize the savings from the standards and exaggerate the costs. As we have said over and over, the Department of Energy considers the technology, the costs, and the savings in this process. This bill is about gutting agencies and deregulating everything and trying to sell it to the American people as a consumer protection, which it is not.

I clear up a few other misconceptions which seemed to be circulating on the Republican side. At yesterday's Rules meeting, my Republican colleagues expressed outrage that the Department of Energy employees are setting appliance efficiency standards, implying that this isn't their job and that this is just another example of the Biden administration overreach, but the truth is this is their job.

These efficiency standards are congressionally mandated. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act requires that the Department of Energy evaluate and finalize appliance energy conservation standards and the appliance energy conservation program at the

Department of Energy was created in 1987. Who was President in 1987? Ronald Reagan. This program was created under a Republican President with a Republican-controlled Senate and a Democratic House.

Republicans are not upset about the specifics of the conservation standards, believe me. The majority is upset about the existence of standards at all. If one looks at Project 2025, their policy proposals for a second Trump administration, the excessive gutting of critical Federal programs that help all Americans will be seen all over the place.

Let me give an example. Not many Americans have heard of Project 2025, which is this shadowy effort led by former Trump administration officials and those who would staff a second Trump administration to implement far-right policies. It calls for radical ideas, such as banning abortion nationwide, cutting taxes for the rich, and ending the independence of the Department of Justice.

Front and center in Project 2025's plans for the Department of Energy is an idea "to eliminate energy efficiency standards for appliances." The war Republicans have declared on energy efficiency is not organic. It is a small part of a larger effort to attack American institutions and dismantle the parts of the government that keep us safe and save consumers money.

I want everyone to understand that what we are talking about here with energy efficiency standards is just part of a larger effort to basically eliminate all consumer protections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please not fall for the Republican framing of these issues. Energy efficiency used to be bipartisan, and it helps all Americans. It helps all Americans. Nobody is opposed to it other than this ideological crusade on the part of the Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our Members vote against the bill, this bill and the next one that follows on refrigerators, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, enacted in 1975, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act provides specific criteria for the DOE to follow in order to propose a new appliance efficiency standard. I went over those standards earlier. The Biden administration has consistently ignored these requirements by proposing and finalizing standards that violate the statute.

Mr. Speaker, I owe the gentleman from New Jersey an apology because I misspoke earlier when I said the payback period was 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a link to the Federal Register, Wednesday, April 24, 2024. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-04-24/pdf/2024-08211.pdf>.

This is a table in the Federal Register, and it says it is a 16-year payback for dishwashers. I said 12. I apologize for misspeaking because it is really 16 years. This is not just words. These are in the Federal Register.

Americans know that these standards will lessen the efficiency of appliances, will cost them more in upfront costs, and ultimately cost them more in inconvenience, in multiple run cycles, in cost over the lifetime when you have a 16-year payback.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right piece of legislation to push back against the administrative overreach, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7700, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Casten of Illinois moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7700 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Mr. CASTEN is as follows:

Mr. Casten moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7700 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall not take effect until the date on which the Secretary of Energy submits to Congress a certification that the implementation of this Act will not result in increasing energy costs for consumers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

□ 1500

REFRIGERATOR FREEDOM ACT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1341, I call up the bill (H.R. 7637) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from prescribing or enforcing energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that are not cost-

effective or technologically feasible, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1341, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7637

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Refrigerator Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. PRESCRIBING AND ENFORCING ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR REFRIGERATORS, REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS, AND FREEZERS.

(a) TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE AND ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is technologically feasible and economically justified; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is not technologically feasible or economically justified.

(b) PROHIBITION ON INCREASED COSTS TO CONSUMERS.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer under such section unless the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard is not likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer if the Secretary of Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard is likely to result in additional net costs to the consumer, including any increase in net costs associated with the purchase, installation, maintenance, disposal, and replacement of the covered product.

(c) SIGNIFICANT ENERGY SAVINGS REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding subsections (m), (n), and (o) of section 325 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6295), the Secretary of Energy may not—

(1) prescribe a new or an amended energy conservation standard for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer under such section if the Secretary of Energy determines that the prescription and imposition of such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy; or

(2) enforce an energy conservation standard prescribed under such section for a covered product that is a refrigerator, a refrigerator-freezer, or a freezer if the Secretary of

Energy determines that enforcement of or compliance with such energy conservation standard will not result in significant conservation of energy.

(d) COVERED PRODUCT; ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARD.—In this section, the terms "covered product" and "energy conservation standard" have the meanings given such terms in section 321 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6291).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7637.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 7637, the Refrigerator Freedom Act, and I thank Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS for leading these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, throughout this Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee has heard time after time how this administration has prioritized a radical climate agenda over the needs of everyday Americans.

If you listen to the last debate, you will see a lot of that. The fact is, the American people cannot afford President Biden's energy policies. They are expensive, they are unreliable, and they are diminishing the quality of life for folks across the country.

House Republicans are tired of this administration trying to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people. We are tired of them putting the interests of the climate lobby over those of hardworking Americans.

The Biden administration's obsession with rationing our abundant energy is reducing the quality of life for Americans. They are making it more difficult and more expensive for you to cook your food, heat your homes, and all the other things that we talked about over the last number of debates on these issues.

With record-high inflation, out-of-control utility bills, and unaffordable home prices, the Biden administration's efficiency regulations will make household appliances more expensive. That is just the bottom line.

The Department of Energy's proposed standards for refrigerators and freezers yield nearly nonexistent savings. The life cycle cost savings for these products is only 3 cents over the course of 9.3 years.

Thanks to the Biden administration, Americans will spend 34 percent more