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Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy Bills Pass Arizona House

Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association

The Arizona House of Representatives today passed two energy measures introduced by Rep. Lucy Mason (R-Prescott).

Energy efficiency legislation (HB 2390) will reduce energy bills for Arizona consumers and businesses \$700 million by 2030; save 15 billion gallons of water during 2008-2020; and avoid one electric power plant by 2020.

“Consumers will save money because energy efficiency appliance standards will lead to less energy use in our homes and workplaces, meaning lower utility bills. Energy efficient appliance standards are a win-win for Arizona consumers and businesses,” stated Representative Mason.

Products in the energy efficient appliance standards legislation include torchiere light fixtures, illuminated exit signs, traffic signals, large packaged air conditioning equipment, commercial refrigerators and freezers, commercial clothes washers, commercial ice makers, pre-rinse spray valves used in commercial kitchens, digital television adapters, and external power supplies, low voltage dry-type distribution transformers, metal halide lamp fixtures, and unit heaters.

“Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, cleanest way to meet our energy needs. Energy efficiency appliance standards are a practical way to save money, save water, and save energy use,” stated Diane E. Brown, Executive Director of the Arizona Public Interest Research Group (Arizona PIRG).

According to Jeff Schlegel, Arizona representative for the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET), “We have over 20 years of favorable experience with state and federal efficiency standards on products such as refrigerators.

These standards are practical and cost-effective, providing substantial benefits to consumers and a boost for the Arizona economy.” Schlegel also pointed out that manufacturers have time to prepare since the standards will not go into effect until 2008.

The second Bill, HB 2374, provides a solar energy tax credit designed to encourage installation of solar energy devices on properties located in Arizona, and opens the door for more solar development in Arizona which would benefit public health and the economy, and create more energy independence.

Representative Mason stated, “Through incentives to utilize on-site solar energy technologies, consumers can offset a significant portion of the conventional energy they purchase while aiding our environment.”

Matt Salmon, former U.S. Congressman and a leader in promoting solar energy in Arizona commented, “This bill moves Arizona away from dependence on imported energy resources by promoting the expanded use of solar energy systems on our homes and businesses. This legislation will bring jobs to our State - high tech jobs - and it is an important catalyst for establishing Arizona as a leader in the deployment of distributed solar energy systems.”

Sean Seitz, President, Arizona Solar Energy Industries Association added, “With strong support from both parties, Arizona's House of Representatives took a strong step forward today in lessening Arizona's dependence on conventional energy resources such as coal and natural gas. The incentives contained in this bill will benefit Arizona homeowners and business owners that incorporate solar hot water, photovoltaics and other solar energy technologies into their properties. We look forward to working with the State Senate next and to educating them on the many benefits expanded use of solar energy has for the State of Arizona.”