

RCII-3 Comments
Recommendation 3
State level appliance efficiency standards and state support for improved federal standards

Government meddling/incentives rarely result in progress. Montana should be working to remove barriers to progress not impeding them by adding bureaucracy that adds no value to the end product. Furthermore, this report was based on a politically correct directive which assumes there is a man-made climate crisis. While this assumption has the backing of the media and politicians it has little support from the scientific community.

Hence the reporting by the media of the relative minority that support the theory.

This will add to the cost of buying appliances in Montana, and will encourage people to keep their old appliances in use longer. Let the consumer do the choosing. If they want energy efficient appliances, they are available. We don't really need government intervention in buying a toaster!

Montana should not start doing something like setting their own standards. We are not a large part of any market and this will mostly just result in higher costs for appliances for Montanans.

I don't think we should allow government intervention to raise the cost of our appliances. Just make sure they're labeled properly and, if the cost is similar, people will gravitate towards energy-saving appliances.

Appliance sales in Montana is too small to drive the market. Montana standards would likely prove a hardship to Montana retailers. Incentives is a better approach.

Efficiency is our most readily available and best "source" of energy with the least amount of CO2!

I support this if it adds some value over the national program.

Again, we are a throw away society. Reduce, reuse, recycle.

Not government place to mandate

This is absurd. Montana has no market power.

Demand should drive standards.

This may or may not be effective.

Not in Montana!

appliances should be 90-100% efficient.

You could adopt California's standards, so that it is not onerous to do business in Montana.

While I think efficiency standards are a tremendous idea, it is crazy to think Montana can set industry standards for appliance design. A joint resolution encouraging stronger federal standards would be a much better approach.

individuals can only do so much with this issue, we need strong and numerous government action of many forms and formats...

Continue to provide incentives to consumers and increase them so they have a reason to demand companies provide energy efficient appliances - Otherwise more costs will just be passed to the consumer - again and they will may opt to repair old appliances rather than purchase new.

Are Montana appliance consumers really a big enough player to influence the national manufacturing sector? Or will this recommendation just make us "appliance free"? This likely will cause an increase in cost of appliances with direct impact on consumers.

no reference to end cost to consumers

Look to the UN-intended consequences. Let the market do it's job. Like most government involvement in an issue, it is well intentioned, but will ultimately make the situation more cumbersome and expensive.

Again, any reason not to do this?

Energy efficient appliances are readily available and can be cost efficient.

Let us buy/sell whatever type of appliance we want.

This approach will only drive up the cost.

Additionally, I think that teaming up with other states, such as CA, that have instituted standards above national standards and how they enforce those standards with manufacturers is important, as well as working with other states to institute similar standards, thus making a broader market for manufacturers.

Demand for energy efficient appliances needs to be driven by consumers, not mandated by the government. Providing incentives that keep these appliances affordable will help to improve consumer demand.

Montana is too small a market -- unless the idea is to piggy-back on CA/Federal standards or establish an inter-mountain/Rocky Mountain states' standard.

this should not be legislated.

Setting min. efficiency standards would reduce the number of products on the market - Montana's market is much smaller than, for example, California's. Perhaps - dare I suggest - that if we did something like this, it should match standards set by a state like California, who has been doing the same.

We are too small a state with too small a market impact for this to work. Suppliers will simply abandon the state rather than endure to cost of compliance for such an insignificant market thus reducing Montanan's range of choices and raising prices because of reduced competition of the need to shop outside the state to get needed items. Bad for everybody.

Federal standards are goob but I don't agree Montana should be setting our own, more stringent, standards.

While in general I support this idea, my only concern with this is for low-income residents who may not be able to afford necessary appliances with higher efficiency--even though there would be long-term savings on energy bills, there would likely be a higher initial cost for the appliances. I think the incentives idea would work better. Or if we go this route, perhaps provide assistance for low-income people (maybe through Leap).

Excellent!

We should tie standards to the strictest adopted by a major market state. Unless we cooperate with other states on this, our market will be too small to have an effect.

And make the minimum worth something!! Although not in the same category, the mandate to require all cars to be fuel efficient (35 mpg) was long overdue and way below what could be done...don't make the same mistake with appliances...they last too long to expect that over time gradual changes will eventually bring us to the level we should be at...

This is an obvious way for government to demonstrate leadership in developing energy efficient technologies.

Bottom of the barrel is Energy Star rated. Then move up the line. Yes, there may be exceptions needed, but I cannot think of an example now. I can think of some Energy Star rated items that don't cut it; that truly are not energy efficient.

Support regional approach

If this is done in conjunction with #2 it would work otherwise please keep in mind the potential costs to require a higher standard.

You are kidding - right!

Bad Idea, people will choose correctly without such dictates

This is fundamental to any strategy.

Montana too small to have special standards.

No, no, and no! This will limit our choices in Montana on what appliances are available. Companies are already offering energy efficient appliances and that is great. Mandated efficiency standards adds to the cost of appliances.

I FEAR THE STANDARDS WOULD BE TOO STRICT AND APPLIANCES WOULD BECOME UNAFFORDABLE TO LOW AND FIXED INCOME MONTANANS

There may be concerns about the state regulation of interstate commerce (see: "Dormant Commerce Clause" line of US Supreme Court cases)

Ensure that the standards are meaningful and result in significant reduction in carbon emissions.

Good idea.

As an energy consumer, I want better efficiency in my appliances, but the best way for me to get it is by the government setting the bar higher.

Another government mandate. No! Again use some form of incentive approach.

Do not go there

Make the minimum standards high.

Some people will not be able to replace appliances they have had for years. Will this put used appliance sales out of business?

This will only raise prices due to loss of choices.

This would be great for Government application to use as a role model. However, often with increased efficiency standards there can be increased costs and there needs to be an awareness of the low income individuals who could be financially hurt by such measures.

Make sure the standards will guarantee significant efficiency.

It's time to keep the federal Government out of our pockets

The idiot, Richard Opper, is goofy if he thinks Montana will become a dumping ground for high use appliances. Let the market work, this will just raise prices and costs to consumers.

Why not set it as a goal versus a mandate through standards? What are the ramifications of this standard? Is there a list of the applicable appliances?

The marketplace and energy costs will sort this out without government intervention. Do not artificially limit personal choice!

With the prices rapidly increasing, conserving natural resources is a matter the free market can handle without government involvement.

How could this ever be enforced? Can Montana dictate to Wal-Mart? Dream on. Might work only with a Federal Standard.

And we need to support other states in these efforts, even if feds balk.

The market should drive the efficiency standards of appliances. If I, as a customer, wish to purchase more efficient appliances then I will. If I want to waste money, that's my prerogative.

There already are standards on appliances, we do not need another more government employees telling private companies what to do.

Forcing the public to use appliances that are more energy efficient is as ludicrous as New York's ban on high-flow shower heads. The folly of this policy was demonstrated in all its ugliness on a Seinfeld episode some years ago. Just remember that everything that the government undertakes to do, it does by FORCE.

Make the effective date contingent upon adoption of similar standards by sufficient enough other states so we don't price ourselves out of the market.

I could support this if it is simply a requirement placed on new appliances.

Again, put the horse before the cart. Encourage manufacturers to produce low-cost appliances through investment in research and technology and the appliance will be bought & used. All this does is increase the cost for everyone. The technology has to come first, not vice versa.

I don't want my tax dollars going for this control measure. Global warming is not a fact.

<http://www.righttalk.com/asx/ggws.asx>

The above video destroys the myth of human caused global warming. Get informed. The truth shall make you free.

Appliances are not manufactured in Montana. Adding any standards that exceed national standards will add extra cost to Montana consumers. What would prohibit Montana consumers from going to Wyoming, Idaho or North Dakota to make these purchases, hurting our local economies?

Again, we are hearing the "Sky is falling!" This is an unfunded mandate and should be tabled.

Much of that will be determined by the consumer. as price for fuels raise consumer will seek enegy efficient products. Since that is no clear link to human caused Climate link and this week there was a NOAA report that the Ice Caps were not in fact receding, but were as larger or larger than in the past, and that his winter world wide the weather has been colder than normal. where is the global warming

More cost incurred for that which the feds are handling adequately.

We should not limit what can be sold here, but rather offer an incentive to purchasers of cleaner appliances.

Exclude resale shops and private sales. Allow a phase in period to sell existing inventory.

This flies in the fact of free markets. First it will be appliances, and then what?

Let cunsumer choose pocket books talk loudest.

Any time that you create a minimum standard you also drive prices up. I think that with an educated public you do not need to set standards.

State standards should be set but should not exceed Federal standards as that would make it cost prohibitive to Montana residents to get appliances

Who bears the additional costs of high efficiency regulations? Those who can least afford it. Those who can afford higher efficiency are already purchasing it.

We need to press the envelope on this... the most efficiency possible as soon as possible

Comments: State standards should be set but should not exceed Federal standards as that would make it cost prohibitive to Montana residents to get appliances

Efficient appliances are very important, but it would be much easier to administer an incentive program for good ones than to try to set and administer state standards. Setting state standards seems like it would duplicate federal efforts, and not provide much net improvement.

Appliances should still be affordable for all classes if efficiency standards are set.

Setting efficiency standards could help, but I don't like the idea of forcing changes to people that result in increased costs. I like the incentive idea better and let people decide to make the changes themselves.

We need to move forward, but that plan is economically unworkable. Be realistic or you can't accomplish anything.

Should be a federal issue. Montana cannot wag the dog

Care must be taken so the accepted applienaces are not out of the reach of affordability for low to moderate income people.

This will only fly if similar measures are adopted by most states-- otherwise it is perceived as enroaching on individuals' rights. The successful argument is that we all share a common pool of energy and resources, of which inefficient machines use more than their share.

Do immediately

set as high as possible following available best practices

I like a quick adoption of standards (2009) rather than adoptions kicked in 2015, 2020 as scene too often with the current federal republican administration. Standards ramped up in 5, 10 or 15 years are just going to be too late.

Have you considered whether Congress has or will pre-empt this field? It can.

Let's show them the way.

That's what a Governor is supposed to do. Think, consult, decide then lead!

including wood stoves

This will have the net effect of raising prices for the Montanans that can afford it the least, and the people that can afford it are going to buy the stainless trophy appliance to go in their trophy home on the hill anyway.

raise cost of appliances and more taxes for state studies.

Not the role of state government. No.

The technology for more efficient appliances already exists. Forcing consumers to buy more efficient appliances will force the manufacturers to provide them.

This seems like a no-brainer. The state should always purchase technologically advanced appliance models that have an approved energy efficient rating.

Will drive up appliance costs. Doesn't work. Consider the low water use toilets that take three or more flushes and end up using more water in the end.

While this sounds good in principle the danger is getting poor quality expensive appliances. Something like this cannot be rushed.. Don't try to push technology development; take advantage of already developed technology.

Nice idea but my concern is the higher price of the new more energy efficient appliances that we would be forced to pay as existing ones need replaced

People are not going to do it unless you legislate it.

Montana too small to impact manufacturers.

set minimums as high as possible, and not rely on business that sell the items to dictate these minimum levels

Anti-business taxes make appliances too expensive.

The State is going to tell me what appliance I can buy! On approval of a Governor in his multimillion "blue collar" house with 6 bathrooms. I don't think so!

It would be very detrimental for Montana to set some sort of state standards. Any standards such as those above should be at least a national standard so that you don't limit the choices we have here in Montana.

Appliances already have to meet government efficiency standards. Another waste of time and money.

Could lead to increased costs to consumers.

Yes, this should already be in place.

This recommendation could lead to increased costs to consumers and should be analyzed to determine total cost to consumers.

Would support but need to be aware of limited impact/segment that Montana has on most manufacturers.

Promotes industry innovation], responsible consumer spending, and could create new jobs in the state and nation.

Dictatorship at its finest. Citizens do not need government to tell them what appliance they must buy. We live here because we possess the freedom to make these decisions for ourselves. We are a REPUBLIC ... not a controlled people.

I think it would depend on the enforcement of efficiency standards. I also think it would raise the price of appliances.

Ridiculous!

All of these are 'feel good' expensive bulls**t legislation. Global warming is NOT a fact (cold records set last winter in the southern hemisphere) so it might be Northern hemisphere warming, but not global. Secondly, latest studies of the sun spots (that control global temperatures more than humans) indicate that within 20 years we will be back in a 'mini-ice age'. Not politically correct, but MUCH more accurate.

Educate, don't regulate

Too vague.

Another burden on the producer which will only raise consumer prices. Let us have a choice without government interference.

Let the free markets do it.

Manufacturers of appliances already are doing this. To force manufacturers to do it only increases the price to consumers.

Global warming and global governance are illegal under the law. Global warming due to pollutants is a farce. The sun is hotter, deal with the facts.

This will simply force people to buy their appliances outside Montana at a better price. A program like this would have to be implemented across the US or it won't be effective!

Will MT regress to the dark ages if appliances need to meet standards just for the small Montana market?

WE do not need draconian regulations. Let the market drive consumer demand.

These standards should be set at the federal level so all appliances sold in the US are energy efficient.

You might run into conflict with the feds on this one, but it certainly should be tried.

When you require certain products be used, you ensure the increased cost of the goods required. People will see the incentives and energy savings and be inclined to buy the more efficient product. Stay out of the free market!! We are not socialists.

Far too many times we just set a minimum standard on things or products. Why not set a higher standard and cost savings to the consumer?

These standards need to be really strict and really progressive or else we're wasting our time and not really improving the environment. You all realize this is a life or death dilemma for our children.

If these standards result in a higher purchase price, there should be an expectation that the consumer can recover that expense in energy savings in a reasonable amount of time.

But again - we can do more sooner !And we should !

What about older appliances? Any retro fitting requirements or incentives?

What! like the federal government doesn't know what they're doing?

This works out like a tax on the very poor.

It is unrealistic to think that Montana could have specific standards different from federal standards. Consumers would have to buy out of state.

I support, but recognize MONTANA's minimal impact given its small market share and federal preemption in some markets.

We are different than other states and our needs are also a lot different.

This would best be done in conjunction with as many other states as possible, since states with lower standards would likely get flooded with "substandard" models.

Excellent.

I would have to say that a more feasible legislation would be from now on only the efficient type of appliance will be sold. To try and regulate the appliances which that are not efficient and that are in circulation would be very difficult.

This recommendation could lead to increased costs to consumers and should be analyzed to determine total cost to consumers.

Right. One of 300 people live in Montana. Any standards for energy efficiency will be driven at the federal or large-state level. Don't waste any effort on this.

Set maximum efficiency standards

Yes - this one will give the one above some teeth, which is necessary.

By doing this, recognize that it impacts the poor the most. Personally, I think there is merit to consider promoting all houses over a certain price range and that are in sunny climates to build in solar panels for individual power needs. Montana could take the lead in building the panels for the nation/world. If we can produce aluminum here, why not solar panels?

Unnecessary. Demand will motivate the change.

Our standards are generally weak in MT. I strongly support improving them in the face of a changing climate.

There is already state of the art energy efficient appliances available as a result of a competitive national and world market. It is inconceivable that the State of Montana should even consider adopting State Standards to dictate more stringent than current economics and technology provide in a world market. The likely result of such arbitrary edicts would be to deprive the average Montana family access to a new appliance that they could afford.

a regulation that will primarily affect the poor; Would people be fined for not meeting the standard?

Not an appropriate role for a small population state. We should rely on national standards and educating the consumers to make wise choices.

dumb- free market will drive people to more efficient appliances....

It all adds up!

Energy Star rated appliances are highly touted now, by the manufacturers and retailers. Do we have to have the state government telling us which ones to buy, when the cost savings of long term use are obvious in the appliance description literature?

Great - why have low efficiency stuff that society is later asked to subsidize.

What; limit the appliances poor folks can use? High efficiency appliances are the MOST expensive in terms of purchase cost.

does state government even have the authority to set a state level of appliance efficiency? Doesn't the US Constitution reserve questions of interstate commerce to the federal government?

A life-cycle cost analysis could be done which would help consumers decide economic as well as efficiency standards that will help in buying decisions.

We do not feel that the market in Montana is large enough to influence manufacturers to comply with our standards should they exceed Federal Standards. Let's face it. We're not California. Let use Federal standards

Not only minimum standards but add incentives for decommissioning/recycling old energy inefficient appliances so they don't continue to consume excessive energy primarily in low income households.

WHO WILL POLICE APPLIANCES BOUGHT IN OTHER STATES AND USED IN MT ???

Industry wants certainty and a level playing field. If the standards are the same for everyone, it is fair and firms will compete.

Much needed in a state where we like to use things until they die - even if they are dirty and unhealthy

Respondent does not have sufficient information or knowledge to rank this recommendation.

should be national not state

This is entirely unrealistic.

Would this be in conflict with a very recent Supreme Court ruling saying that when state stds. for appliances-in this case, medical devices-are overruled by federal standards? (I think the ruling was about safety stds., but not sure)

Montana cannot have higher energy efficiency standards than the rest of the nation. We simply do not have a large enough market share to dictate manufacturing standards. There will either be no appliances available or they will be very expensive as they will be a "niche" market. People will go out of state or on-line to get their appliances.

Incentives are more effective than government standards. Again consumer gets gauged.

Bring the price down, don't legislate. Market forces will prevail under proper market environment. If green costs too much, don't legislate a price differential support for industries.

Appliance standards are recognized means to facilitate the deployment of new energy-efficiency technologies. However, state policies should be consistent with federal policies.

If we should adopt too high a standard we will have no available appliances for purchase. We do not have the population to dictate to manufacturers.

Ensure they surpass the national average.

Too soon to accomplish

Does this apply to used appliances, or just to new appliances?

Sure, every appliance manufacturer wants to make sure that their appliances meet the Montana standards. If we are planning on using programs that other states are using then why do we even need the standards here? Got to add more bureaucracy.

Regulation of appliance is very important so all Montana residents participate.

Great idea!

Setting minimum efficiency standards may financially harm low income residents if the minimum efficiency standards come at an increased cost. How do you enforce this program? How do you prevent Billings residents from driving to Sheridan WY to buy products they can't get in Montana? Does the ban also include internet sales, or ebay purchases?

So simple, and a bang for the buck.