



Consumer Federation of America

**Statement of
Richard Eckman, Energy Advocate and Communications Manager
Consumer Federation of America
before the
Maryland House of Delegates
Committee of Economic Matters
in Support of HB1021,
Products That Contain Mercury – Fluorescent Lamps – Prohibition
March 6, 2023**

Dear Members of the Maryland Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Richard Eckman. I am the Energy Advocate for the Consumer Federation of America. Founded in 1968, CFA is one of the nation’s largest consumer organizations working in the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education. CFA represents over 250 national, state and local groups. For more than 20 years, CFA has supported and promoted cost-effective energy and water efficiency policies and practices at the federal, state and local levels. I’m pleased to testify today in support of the Products That Contain Mercury – Fluorescent Lamps – Prohibition, (HB1021). Quite simply, it will benefit Maryland residents and businesses by saving them money on their utility bills—while also benefiting the environment.

The Act would save Marylanders and businesses money by transitioning sales of common fluorescent light bulbs to LEDs. As LEDs are twice as energy efficient as fluorescents, LEDs will generate significant electricity bill savings. Estimates by ASAP show that by 2030, Maryland would see annual utility bill

savings of \$87 million thanks to transitioning from fluorescents to LEDs. By 2050 Maryland would save a cumulative \$1.1 billion on electricity bills.

In closing, passing this legislation is a win-win-win for Maryland. The bill will cut energy waste and reduce greenhouse gases while improving air quality. CFA urges you to adopt this highly cost-effective pro-consumer bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard F. Eckman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Eckman

Energy Advocate &
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Consumer Federation of America

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