



IWV Supports Gas Furnace Rule Disapproval Resolutions

February 5, 2024

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of Independent Women's Voice, I strongly encourage the passage of bicameral disapproval resolutions, **SJR 58** and **HJR 111**, of the Department of Energy's "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces" under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), introduced by Representative Michelle Fischbach (R) of Minnesota and Senator Ted Cruz (R) of Texas. Independent Women's Voice fights for women and their loved ones by effectively expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well-intended, but actually enhance people's freedom, opportunities, and well-being.

This resolution would **repeal** the Department of Energy's finalized rule on **Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces** set to be finalized on February 16th, 2024, and enacted in 2028. The rule would mandate phasing out non-condensing gas furnaces for condensing ones to achieve an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of 95%. Under the new rule, consumers would have to replace their existing furnace with new models that **exhaust** gas out of homes to fulfill this AFUE requirement.

Consumer gas furnaces are quite popular with Americans. These appliances account for **19%** of annual residential energy use in the U.S. This new standard, however, would make non-condensing furnaces more cost prohibitive and result in less consumer choice—with **60%** of non-condensing gas furnaces expected to be eliminated from the market. Americans will see costs rise approximately **\$500** and should anticipate paying **\$2,200** to install condensing models. These changes would adversely affect a **third** of U.S. households. DOE's own data **shows** 30% of senior-only households, 26% of low-income households, and 27% of small business consumers would be impacted by this policy change.

The gas furnace rule is part of the Biden administration's continued war on commonly-owned, reliable household appliances. These rules claim to be energy efficient, but are hardly economically sustainable. According to one estimate from the Alliance for Consumers, Americans will pay an additional **\$9,000** on average to achieve compliance with these many new mandates.

These resolutions would be a course correction for obtuse Department of Energy rulemaking that prioritizes impractical, infeasible net-zero decarbonization goals over energy efficiency and affordability and quality of life for consumers.

For all these reasons, we urge members of Congress to work toward the swift passage of the **SJR 58** and **HJR 111**. IWV thanks Representative Fischback and Senator Cruz for their leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gabriella Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gabriella Hoffman
Director, Center for Energy and Conservation
Independent Women's Voice