

SB 5098-S.E - DIGEST

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 3/11/05)

Finds that: (1) According to estimates of the department of community, trade, and economic development, the efficiency standards set forth in this act will save nine hundred thousand megawatt-hours of electricity, thirteen million therms of natural gas, and two billion gallons of water in the year 2020, fourteen years after the standards have become effective, with a total net present value to buyers of four hundred ninety million dollars in 2020.

(2) Efficiency standards for certain products sold or installed in the state assure consumers and businesses that such products meet minimum efficiency performance levels thus saving money on utility bills.

(3) Efficiency standards save energy and reduce pollution including global warming emissions and other environmental impacts associated with the production, distribution, and use of electricity and natural gas.

(4) Efficiency standards contribute to the economy of Washington by helping to better balance energy supply and demand, thus reducing pressure for higher natural gas and electricity prices. By saving consumers and businesses money on energy bills, efficiency standards help the state and local economy, since energy bill savings can be spent on local goods and services.

(5) Efficiency standards can make electricity systems more reliable by reducing the strain on the electricity grid during peak demand periods. Furthermore, improved energy efficiency can reduce or delay the need for new power plants, power transmission lines, and power distribution system upgrades.