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MARKUP OF H.R. 3477, THE CEILING FAN ENERGY

CONSERVATION HARMONIZATION ACT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

House of Representatives,

Subcommittee on Energy,

Committee on Energy and Commerce,

Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 2322, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Fred Upton [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Upton, Olson, Harper, McKinley, Kinzinger, Johnson, Hudson, Cramer, Walberg, Duncan, Rush, Loeb sack, Schrader, Butterfield, and Pallone (ex officio).

Staff Present: Mike Bloomquist, Deputy Staff Director; Allie Bury, Legislative Clerk, Energy/Environment; Karen Christian, General Counsel; Margaret Tucker Fogarty, Staff Assistant; Adam Fromm,

Director of Outreach and Coalitions; Ali Fulling, Legislative Clerk, Oversight and Investigations/Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection; Jordan Haverly, Policy Coordinator, Environment; A.T. Johnston, Senior Policy Advisor, Energy; Peter Kielty, Deputy General Counsel; Ben Lieberman, Senior Counsel, Energy; Mary Martin, Chief Counsel, Energy/Environment; Mark Ratner, Policy Coordinator; Dan Schneider, Press Secretary; Evan Viau, Legislative Clerk, Communications and Technology; Priscilla Barbour, Minority Energy Fellow; Elizabeth Ertel, Minority Office Manager; Evan Gilbert, Minority Press Assistant; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Deputy Staff Director and Chief Health Advisor; Rick Kessler, Minority Senior Advisor and Staff Director, Energy/Environment; John Marshall, Minority Policy Coordinator; Dan Miller, Minority Policy Analyst; Alexander Ratner, Minority Policy Analyst; and Tuley Wright, Minority Policy Advisor, Energy/Environment.

Mr. Upton. The subcommittee will come to order.

We are working on a little bit of a faster pace today because votes are expected in just a couple of minutes. And as far as I know, this is a relatively uncontroversial bill with no amendments, so we will try to go as fast as we can.

The chair will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Energy efficiency provides benefits for consumers, for job-creating businesses, and for the environment, which is why it is so important to have policies in place that are effective in encouraging energy efficiency. That is the reason this subcommittee is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Department of Energy's appliance standard efficiency program to see if there are ways to update and improve upon it.

That comprehensive review is ongoing, but in the meantime we are here today to mark up a very targeted bill that would improve the efficiency regulations affecting ceiling fans. H.R. 3477, the Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act, was sponsored by my North Carolina colleague Richard Hudson and has an all-star cast of bipartisan cosponsors, including Mr. Rush, Mr. Peters, Mr. Butterfield.

Most of you know ceiling fans often come with lights -- not always -- and, thus, serve two purposes for consumers. DOE regulates the energy efficiency of both the ceiling fans and the ceiling fan lights, and stringent new standards are scheduled to take effect over the next couple years. But for some reason, DOE has set the deadline

for the ceiling fan light kits in 2019, while the ceiling fan standard takes effect in 2020.

H.R. 3477 would take the logical step of aligning the deadlines for ceiling fans and ceiling fan light kits so that both take effect in 2020. That should ease the compliance burden for some manufacturers and may help lower costs for consumers -- always a good thing.

Although ceiling fan regs may not be the weightiest matter before Congress, for sure, we have to take every effort and opportunity to streamline the Federal regs and help compliance costs. So I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes."

And I yield back my time on my opening statement and recognize Mr. Rush, the ranking member of the subcommittee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Upton follows:]

***** INSERT 1-1 *****

Mr. Rush. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding today's hearing.

Mr. Chairman, I am not usually supportive of any attempts to delay efficiency standards. However, today, I am not only supporting this bill, H.R. 3477, but I am also cosponsoring the bill as well.

This bill, Mr. Chairman, which was introduced by Mr. Hudson of North Carolina, would simply extend the compliance deadline for the rule amending the standards for ceiling fan light kits, or CFLK, to January 21 in the year 2020. This year-long extension would merely align the compliance deadline for the CFLK standards with the standard for ceiling fans.

As I have said many times before, Mr. Chairman, when there are opportunities for members of the subcommittee to work together to solve problems in a bipartisan, commonsense manner, then I will always be open and willing and eager to do it.

While I have not heard much opposition to this bill, my office has met with several manufacturers concerned with the two competing deadlines for ceiling fans with and without lighting. This bill represents a legislative fix for a minor issue that could result in a major problem for manufacturers and impacting the cost for consumers.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to support this bill, and I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rush follows:]

***** COMMITTEE INSERT *****

Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

The chair would note that all opening statements will be made part of the record under unanimous consent.

Are there any other members wishing to make a verbal statement?

Mr. Butterfield -- oh, I am sorry, Mr. Pallone, the ranking member.

Mr. Butterfield.

Mr. Butterfield. Thank you very much, Chairman Upton, and thank you for holding today's subcommittee markup on 3477, the Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act.

This bill, Mr. Chairman, has long been a priority for me, for many of my colleagues, and many of my constituents back in North Carolina. My good friend and colleague Representative Richard Hudson and I introduced this commonsense legislation last summer.

The bill would align the compliance dates for two energy efficiency regulations that affect the same product: ceiling fans. These fans are especially important to my constituents in eastern North Carolina, who use them as low-cost ways to keep their homes cool during hot and humid summers. Many of those constituents cannot afford air conditioning or central air, and ceiling fans allow them to regulate the temperature while keeping their utility bills low.

The two different energy efficiency requirements could result in duplicative testing and labeling of ceiling fans that could lead to higher costs for our consumers. The bill simply streamlines the compliance process and ensures that ceiling fans meet stringent

efficiency requirements.

I urge my colleagues to support this Hudson-Butterfield legislation.

Thank you very much. I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Butterfield follows:]

***** COMMITTEE INSERT *****

Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

Other members wishing to give an opening statement?

The ranking member of the full committee, Mr. Pallone.

Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The stated purpose of this bill is to align the current 2019 compliance deadline for the ceiling fan light kits standard with a separate standard for ceiling fans set for 2020. H.R. 3477 extends the compliance deadline for the rule amending the standards for ceiling fan light kits to January 21, 2020, so they both occur at the same time.

DOE is determined that increasing efficiency standards for ceiling fan light kits would conserve more energy while also being economically feasible.

At the time of our hearing, I said that it was a bill that seems to have no opposition, which is a little surprising considering that new standards for these kits will save money and reduce carbon emissions. I believe that the sooner they are in place, the better for consumers and our environment. While I have heard some concerns voiced by smaller retailers, I have heard very little from the environmental community.

The bill enjoys support from both sides of the aisle, and its Senate companion passed by unanimous consent. And I expect the bill will move quickly today, paving the way for swift markup by the full committee in the near future.

And so thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pallone follows:]

***** COMMITTEE INSERT *****

Mr. Upton. The gentleman yields back.

Other members wishing to give an opening statement?

Seeing none, the chair will call up H.R. 3477 and ask the clerk to report.

The Clerk. H.R. 3477, offered by Mr. Hudson --

Mr. Upton. Without objection, the first reading of the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for amendment at any point. So ordered.

[The bill follows:]

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Mr. Upton. Are there any bipartisan amendments to the bill?

Seeing none, are there any other amendments?

Seeing none, the question now occurs on forwarding H.R. 3477 to the full committee.

All those in favor will say aye.

Those opposed, say no.

The ayes appear to have it, and the bill is agreed to.

And, without objection, the staff is authorized to make technical and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the subcommittee today. So ordered.

And, without objection, this subcommittee now stands --

Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to insert a letter from the American Lighting Association into the record.

Mr. Upton. Without objection, it is made part of the record. And so ordered.

[The letter follows:]

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Mr. Upton. Without objection, the subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:10 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]