



Adopted Policy Resolution 04.2024

Supporting Natural Gas Furnaces in the ENERGY STAR Program

Sponsors

Representative Bobby Payne, Florida

Representative Mike Giallombardo, Florida

WHEREAS, consumers deserve access to comprehensive and accurate performance information on all commonly available appliances regardless of energy source and/or geographic location; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR program is a well-known appliance certification program that is respected and trusted by consumers; and

WHEREAS, the program exists to help consumers, government, and businesses adopt energy-efficient products and practices; and

WHEREAS, EPA is proposing to eliminate the long-standing regional distinction for ENERGY STAR-rated natural gas furnaces; and

WHEREAS, regional requirements exist to address geographic differences in heating needs; and

WHEREAS, a one-size fits all national level for gas furnaces in the ENERGY STAR program does not work for products with energy use that varies widely depending on the climate of the region; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the regional distinction will remove a significant number of natural gas furnaces from the ENERGY STAR program; and

WHEREAS, five SSEB member states have signed into law legislation ensuring homes and businesses have access to the appliance of their choice regardless of the type or source of energy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board supports consumer access to efficiency information regarding appliances used for cooking, space heating, water heating, or another end use regardless of the type or source of energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board urges EPA to recognize the long-standing contributions that high-efficiency natural gas appliances have made in saving consumers money and reducing emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board calls on EPA in the ENERGY STAR program to have different gas furnace efficiency requirements and labels that are used for different regions of the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Southern States Energy Board calls on EPA to extend the timeline for any changes to the ENERGY STAR program related to furnaces to be consistent with the timelines for incentives laid out in the Inflation Reduction Act.