

Dear Freedom Action Activist,

Are you as angry as I am about the federal ban on standard light bulbs?

I hope so because Freedom Action is launching a national grassroots campaign to overturn the ban on incandescent light bulbs at www.FreeOurLight.org, and we need your involvement. Click [here](#) to sign the petition to Congress now.

The incandescent light bulb has been an essential part of American life and our standard of living for over a century. But General Electric, the company Thomas Edison founded in 1890 to sell his newly-invented light bulb, helped write and lobbied for the legislation to ban the bulb because compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are more profitable.

The Democratic-controlled Congress passed the ban on standard incandescent bulbs and Republican President George W. Bush signed it into law in 2007. The ban begins to take effect in less than a year—on January 1, 2012—when 100-watt bulbs can no longer be sold. By January 1, 2014, even 40-watt bulbs will disappear from store shelves.

I don't think Congress has any right to tell Americans what kind of light bulbs are appropriate for our homes.

The environmental justification for this ban is that it will save energy because CFLs are more efficient. This has not been true in practice: a small city in Iowa, Traer, handed out 18,000 CFLs and saw its citizens *increase* their electricity usage.

I have both CFLs and regular incandescent light bulbs in my home. I have found that CFLs are fine or at least OK for some uses. But they work poorly or not at all in enclosed fixtures, with dimmer switches, and outside in cold weather. And why should I pay \$4 for a CFL to put in my closet that I only turn on for a few hours a year?

Even worse, the light produced by CFLs is not nearly as good as that from Edison's great invention. So I don't like CFLs in my living or dining room or for reading lights.

There are safety problems as well. CFLs contain small amounts of mercury. If you break one, the EPA has [three pages](#) of instructions on how to clean it up safely.

But the federal government knows better than I do what kind of light bulb is best for me!

I'm angry, and I expect you are, too. But we don't have to take it lying down. We need to act quickly to force Congress to repeal the ban this year before it goes into effect next January 1.

Please take a moment and click here to sign the Congressional petition at FreeOurLight.org. That's just the first step in our campaign to Save the Bulb. As we build support across America to Repeal the Ban, we'll be back to ask you to take additional actions.

Yours for freedom and prosperity,

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P. S., After you've signed the petition, please forward this e-mail to your friends and ask them to take action, too.

Want to support our work? All of Freedom Action's funding comes from you and people like you who value the freedoms guaranteed to us by the Constitution. Your financial support for our efforts will help us to "put freedom on the offensive," as Margaret Thatcher said about President Reagan. [Click here to chip in!](#)