



April 6, 2026

**Re: Support of H7877 - An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers - Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Act of 2021**

Dear Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee on Corporations,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). We are a project of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) dedicated to advancing cost-effective efficiency standards at both the national and state level. We are writing in support of H7877.

We would like to express our gratitude for Rhode Island's leadership in the appliance efficiency space. In 2021, Rhode Island led a new wave of states passing state appliance efficiency standards, adopting efficiency standards for 15 products and prompting other states in the region to take action. 13 states have adopted appliance efficiency standards, creating a "strength in numbers" effect that is helping states with the policy's implementation.<sup>1</sup> The standards set in 2021 put Rhode Island on the path toward saving hundreds of millions of dollars from decreased utility bills, and the efficiency standards proposed in this bill would only add to these savings.

H7877 seeks to build upon that history by adopting or updating state efficiency standards for eight products. ASAP and ACEEE published a joint report, *States Go First: How States Can Save Consumers Money, Reduce Energy and Water Waste, and Protect the Environment with New Appliance Standards*, and created savings analyses for each state which have also been updated annually.<sup>2</sup> This Rhode Island savings report can be found at the end of these comments, and we would be happy to answer any questions about the findings.

Additionally, H7877 protects Rhode Islanders from higher utility bills by backstopping existing federal appliance energy standards if those standards are eliminated at the federal level. Five states have already adopted federal backstop standards, and this year federal backstop legislation passed through both houses of the Virginia state legislature with a signature from the Governor pending.<sup>3</sup> Preserving federal product standards in Rhode Island protects affordability for households and businesses, supports grid reliability during a period of rising electricity demand, and protects manufacturers who have invested in compliance.

**STATE APPLIANCE STANDARDS SAVE MONEY**

H7877 adds or updates standards for 8 products in Rhode Island law, most notably for expanded scope electric motors (ESEMs) and for Commercial and Industrial (C&I) fans, which include general fans and blowers and air circulating fans. According to ASAP's analysis, standards for ESEMs and fans and blowers represent the largest and second-largest electricity savings opportunities, respectively, among all the ASAP-recommended state-level efficiency standards. Adopting the standards proposed in H7877 is

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<sup>1</sup> California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://appliance-standards.org/document/2026-rhode-island-savings-report>

<sup>3</sup> California, Colorado, Hawaii, New York, Vermont.



estimated to save Rhode Island \$17 million annually on utility bills by 2035. In total, by 2050, Rhode Island could see \$418 million in utility bill savings.<sup>4</sup> These savings would be seen across Rhode Island, keeping dollars in consumer's pockets and available for spending in local economies.

Beyond the utility bill savings, H7877 protects grid reliability, reduces energy demand, and prevents harmful pollution and climate emissions. By adopting the appliance standards in this bill, by 2050 Rhode Island could save 1,417 gigawatt hours of electricity, 236 tons of nitrous oxide, 9 tons of sulfur dioxide, and more than 215,000 tons of carbon dioxide.<sup>5</sup>

## **FEDERAL STANDARDS PROTECT RHODE ISLAND CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES**

For decades, federal appliance efficiency standards have quietly saved consumers billions of dollars while preserving performance and choice. Because of federal appliance standards, Rhode Island households saved an average of \$8,200 and businesses have saved over \$1.2 billion on utility bills over the last 10 years.<sup>6</sup>

These savings are now at risk. As of December 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy has proposed eliminating 8 existing appliance standards and more could be proposed in the future. Congress is also currently attacking standards, with legislation proposed that would create new ways for the administration to repeal existing standards. If DOE were to publish a final rule eliminating an appliance efficiency standard, the federal standard would stop being effective as soon as 60 days after publication.

H7877 would allow Rhode Island to maintain the status quo, preserving the dollar savings consumers and businesses see thanks to federal standards. The bill simply states that if a federal standard were eliminated, Rhode Island would adopt the federal standard as of January 19, 2025 that manufacturers are already meeting.

Rhode Island would also not be acting alone - five other states have already passed federal backstop language. Those states, California, New York, Vermont, Colorado, and Hawaii, represent over 70 million consumers. Rhode Island would benefit from coordination with these states.

For Rhode Island manufacturers and retailers, the status quo would continue. Manufacturers are already complying and retailers are already only selling products in compliance with the federal standards. Rhode Island businesses have saved over a billion dollars on their utility bills due to federal standards, savings that would be lost if federal standards were eliminated. This bill protects responsible manufacturers from being undercut by inefficient, low-quality products, including imports already produced for markets without standards, that could quickly flood the market.

Energy efficiency matters for grid reliability. Without federal standards, electricity consumption in 2025 would have been 20% higher in Rhode Island, and peak demand in the summer would have been 300 megawatts higher.<sup>7</sup> By reducing peak demand, standards defer costly investments in new power plants and transmission infrastructure, helping keep rates lower.

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<sup>4</sup> See <https://appliance-standards.org/document/2026-rhode-island-savings-report>

<sup>5</sup> See <https://appliance-standards.org/document/2026-rhode-island-savings-report>

<sup>6</sup> See [https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/rhode\\_island\\_asap\\_state\\_by\\_state\\_2026.pdf](https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/rhode_island_asap_state_by_state_2026.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> See [https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/rhode\\_island\\_asap\\_state\\_by\\_state\\_2026.pdf](https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/rhode_island_asap_state_by_state_2026.pdf)



Federal standards also provide public health and environmental benefits by reducing pollution. Without federal standards, in 2025 Rhode Islanders would have been breathing in increased nitrogen oxides pollution equal to the annual emissions from 5,000 school buses. In addition, the increased water waste would be equivalent to 22% of residential water use in the state.<sup>8</sup>

We urge you to support H7877 to protect the utility bill savings and environmental benefit of both federal and state appliance efficiency standards. We would be happy to provide further information, answer questions, or provide any technical assistance that might be needed for the success of this policy.

Respectfully,

Brooke Lockwood, State Policy Associate  
Appliance Standard Awareness Project

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<sup>8</sup> See [https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/rhode\\_island\\_asap\\_state\\_by\\_state\\_2026.pdf](https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/rhode_island_asap_state_by_state_2026.pdf)



## Annual savings estimates for: Rhode Island

Potential annual savings in 2035								
	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (BBtu)	Water (million gallons)	NO <sub>x</sub> (tons)	SO <sub>2</sub> (tons)	CO <sub>2</sub> (thousand metric tons)	Utility bill savings (million 2024\$)	Payback period (years)
Commercial & industrial fans	14.2	--	--	1.8	0.02	1.5	2.5	1.1
Commercial battery chargers	0.2	--	--	0.03	0.0003	0.02	0.04	3.3
Commercial dishwashers	1.5	--	--	0.2	0.002	0.2	0.3	**
Commercial ovens	0.3	5	--	0.3	0.002	0.3	0.1	**
Computer server power supplies	4.9	--	--	0.6	0.01	0.5	0.9	0.6
Electric motors	32.7	--	--	4.1	0.05	3.4	6.5	0.8
Faucets	1.6	28	76.4	1.5	0.01	1.7	2.5	0.0
Showerheads	3.9	42.8	123.1	2.4	0.02	2.7	4.3	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>--</b>

Assuming a compliance date of 2028 for all the recommended standards except electric motors, which have an assumed compliance date of 2029. While we are recommending the adoption of state-level standards for commercial hot-food holding cabinets, computers and computer monitors, residential ventilating fans, and water softeners, we have not estimated savings for these products due to insufficient data on the current market.

\*\*Rhode Island has existing standards for commercial dishwashers and commercial ovens. We are recommending improved standards for these products; however, we did not estimate payback period due to insufficient data on the incremental product cost.

## Cumulative savings estimates for: Rhode Island

Potential cumulative savings through 2050								
	Electricity (GWh)	Natural gas (TBtu)	Water (billion gallons)	NO <sub>x</sub> (tons)	SO <sub>2</sub> (tons)	CO <sub>2</sub> (thousand metric tons)	Utility bill savings (million 2024\$)	
Commercial & industrial fans	382	--	--	41	2.4	31.6	66.6	
Commercial battery chargers	6	--	--	0.6	0.04	0.5	1.0	
Commercial dishwashers	37	--	--	4.0	0.2	3.1	6.6	
Commercial ovens	7	0.1	--	7.2	0.1	8.1	3.8	
Computer server power supplies	100	--	--	11.1	0.6	8.8	17.9	
Electric motors	753	--	--	81.4	4.6	63.1	149.7	
Faucets	39.3	0.6	1.8	33.6	0.4	37.5	63.5	
Showerheads	92.6	1	3	56.6	0.9	62.2	108.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>418</b>	

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