



April 7, 2026

Rhode Island House Corporations Committee,

RE: Support for H7877 - Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Consumer Reports (CR) writes in strong support of H7877, legislation that would update and protect appliance and water efficiency standards in Rhode Island. In addition to updating existing efficiency standards in the state, this bill would codify existing federal energy and water efficiency standards for household and commercial appliances at the state level, protecting significant financial savings for consumers and businesses, while encouraging the further development of innovative water- and energy-saving technologies.

A nationally representative Consumer Reports survey from March 2025 of 2,291 US adults has shown that an overwhelming majority of consumers across the political spectrum (87% overall, including 94% of Democrats and 82% of Republicans) support government policies that require new home appliances to achieve at least a minimum level of efficiency.<sup>1</sup> Further, the benefit Americans most commonly said would encourage them to buy a more efficient large home appliance is saving money on lower energy bills.<sup>2</sup>

Appliance efficiency standards help ensure that the products that consumers and businesses use will require less water and energy to operate, while maintaining performance and reducing total ownership costs. And they are proven to work: Rhode Island households have saved an average of \$8,200 over the past decade due to federal efficiency standards.<sup>3</sup> By protecting existing federal efficiency standards for a range of priority appliances as spelled out in H7877, Rhode Island can ensure that consumers in their state will continue on a path of reducing energy and water use, safeguarding substantial financial savings for consumers and businesses.

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<sup>1</sup> Consumer Reports, *March 2025 American Experiences Survey*. Available at [https://article.images.consumerreports.org/image/upload/v1744212505/prod/content/dam/surveys/Consumer\\_Reports\\_AES\\_March\\_2025.pdf](https://article.images.consumerreports.org/image/upload/v1744212505/prod/content/dam/surveys/Consumer_Reports_AES_March_2025.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Appliance Efficiency Standards Lower Utility Bills and Cut Electricity Demand in Every State, *Appliance Standards Awareness Project*, 2026.

HB7877 will also build upon Rhode Island's leadership in energy efficiency by adding state standards for eight additional product categories. These additional standards will help reduce energy consumption, putting downward pressure on utility rates, while delivering hundreds of millions in additional bill savings in the decades to come.<sup>4</sup>

For these reasons, CR strongly supports H7877 and urges you to pass this important bill to protect appliance and water efficiency standards for Rhode Island consumers and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration,

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<sup>4</sup> Appliance Standards Awareness Project, *2026 State Appliance Standards Recommendations: Rhode Island*, Available at [https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026\\_Rhode\\_Island\\_Appliance\\_Standards\\_Savings\\_Report%20-%20wCA%20faucets%20showerheads.docx\\_\\_1.pdf](https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026_Rhode_Island_Appliance_Standards_Savings_Report%20-%20wCA%20faucets%20showerheads.docx__1.pdf)