



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr., Chairman
House Corporations Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7877, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition write in opposition to House Bill 7877 which would establish minimum energy and water efficiency standards for equipment and products purchased in this state.

This legislation would prohibit the sale of numerous products in Rhode Island, including commercial ovens, dishwashers, computer server power supply units, and showerheads, that don't meet stricter efficiency standards.

As representatives of small and large businesses across our state, we understand the importance of implementing enhanced energy and water efficiency standards to address climate change and overall resource utilization. However, we are concerned that this legislation will not only limit the types of products Rhode Island retailers are allowed to sell, but it also forces consumers to potentially pay significantly more for limited product choices compared to residents in other states. If Rhode Island becomes an outlier in its efficiency standards, this may significantly reduce the options for our state's residents as manufacturers likely won't adjust their products to meet the relatively small demand of Rhode Island consumers.

We are concerned that this legislation will have a negative impact on the ability of small and mid-sized businesses to find affordable products and equipment to meet their needs.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on H.7877.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Corporations Committee members