



April 7, 2026

RE: H7877 An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Act of 2021
Contact: Raagan Wilhelm, Senior Manager – Energy Optimization Policy,
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Dear Chair Solomon, Vice Chair O'Brien, and Vice Chair Caldwell

Thank you for considering this testimony in strong support of H7877, An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency Standards Act of 2021

We submit this testimony on behalf of Ceres, a nonprofit advocacy organization working with some of the largest businesses and investors in Rhode Island and across the country to accelerate the transition to a cleaner, more just, and resilient world.

Founded in 1989, Ceres is a national nonprofit that works with influential companies and investors in Rhode Island and across the country to build equitable market-based solutions to meet today's sustainability challenges. Ceres convenes several business networks including the [Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy Network \(BICEP\)](#) – a coalition of more than 80 major companies that support policy solutions to achieve a clean economy. Many of the companies in these networks have business interests in efficiency standards and the procedures by which these standards are revised, such as AO Smith, Eaton, Daikin, Franklin Energy, Lutron, Sealed, Siemens, and Trane Technologies.

Appliance standards make residential and commercial products more efficient, saving energy while reducing emissions and overall strain on the electric grid from the production, distribution, and use of electricity, natural gas, and other fuels. **Appliance standards mitigate the effects of inefficient, outdated appliances, spur market innovation, and ensure continued affordability for Rhode Island businesses and residents.**

For consumers, updating appliance standards means more money that can be saved or spent on local goods and services. For businesses, energy savings allow for reinvestment in their facilities and workforce. Currently, federal-level appliance standards are already saving consumers on average \$8,200 over the last decade.¹ Adopting state-level backstop language for efficiency standards will ensure continued savings, further reducing energy waste and lowering consumer utility bills.

According to analysis from the Appliance Standard Awareness Project (ASAP), over the last decade, existing appliance standards have saved businesses and residents across

¹[Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards.](#)

Rhode Island more than \$1.2 billion dollars.² Adopting the new produce standards proposed in H7877 will save Rhode Island residents an additional \$17 million annually on their utility bills by 2035.³

On top of the billions of dollars existing appliance standards have saved Rhode Island; these efficiency measures have also contributed to overall reductions in energy consumption. **In a time when peak energy demands are rising, every megawatt saved through efficiency measures like appliance standards is a dollar saved for the people of Rhode Island.** Over the last decade, ASAP predicts that without appliance standards, energy consumption in Rhode Island would be 20% higher, adding an additional 300MW of power required to meet summer peak demand.⁴ **Appliance standards are not only a critical tool to reducing consumer energy bills and ensuring customer choice; they are a critical component to electric grid reliability.**

States have historically led the nation in the development of new appliance standards and should continue to pursue ambitious proposals. Since 2018, 18 states have passed updated appliance standards, with five more adopting federal backstop language. **Including backstop language for efficiency standards ensures that Rhode Island residents and businesses are not saddled with less efficient appliances that are unable to be sold in other states in the region.**

For these reasons, Ceres urges the Legislature to pass H7877 to keep moving Rhode Island toward a cleaner energy future, ultimately saving residents and businesses alike money, and promoting a more reliable electric grid.

Sincerely,

Raagan Wilhelm
Senior Manager – Energy Optimization Policy

² <https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/Appliance-Efficiency-Standards-Lower-Bills-in-Every-State.pdf>

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

