

March 18, 2021

Representative David A. Bennett  
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence RI 02908

**Re: The Nature Conservancy supports House Bill 5966 to create appliance efficiency standards**

Dear Chairman Bennett,

The Nature Conservancy **strongly supports** House Bill 5966 to establish new appliance efficiency standards. We are grateful to the sponsors - Representatives Handy, Bennett, Cortvriend, Carson, Felix, and Ruggiero - for their leadership.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. We have chapters in all fifty U.S. states and in nearly 80 countries around the globe. Here in Rhode Island, we steward more than 10,000 acres of protected land. At The Nature Conservancy, we realize that we cannot succeed in our core mission without seriously addressing climate change. The science is clear and unequivocal: we need to fully decarbonize our economy by 2050, with major emissions reductions before 2030.

Energy efficiency is an essential tool in how we will fully decarbonize our economy. It is not only our least expensive resource, but it makes achieving other decarbonization goals easier. This legislation would set efficiency standards on an array of consumer products. It would also give the Office of Energy Resources the ability to set new standards on additional products over time.

Appliance efficiency standards are one of the most effective decarbonization policies that currently exists at the state and federal levels. They simply set a minimum threshold of efficiency for products that can be sold on the market. Individual companies can innovate ways to meet those standards and provide consumers with the products they need. Standards are a way to address efficiency systemically – the products for sale at any store or on the truck of any contractor would meet minimum thresholds for efficiency, and consumers benefit from lower bills without a lot of hassle..

Appliance standards are also tried-and-true policy. The first appliance standards – for refrigerators – were set in the 1970's. Fridges today are larger than those sold in the 1970's before standards, but they use less electricity and have lower (real) prices. This success story has been replicated with other products. States around the country have continued to adopt appliance efficiency standards – which has also led to the adoption of federal standards for products as the market moves.

Thank you for your leadership with this legislation. We have limited time to respond to the threat of climate change, and this proposed legislation helps us to act quickly to the challenges we face. We respectfully urge you to pass this legislation. I am always available to answer questions or help in any way.

Sincerely,



Sue AnderBois  
The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island