



March 3, 2026

Re: Support of H7990 - An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles - Replacement Tire Efficiency Standards

Dear Chair Stanley and members of the Committee on State Government and Elections,

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 H7990. The replacement tire efficiency standards enabled by this bill provide much-needed help for the affordability crisis, saving Rhode Island drivers millions of dollars while avoiding needless climate emissions and air pollution.

Replacement tire efficiency standards would improve affordability for Rhode Island drivers by ensuring replacement tires are as efficient as tires on new vehicles. This would save gasoline drivers in the state about \$140, and electric vehicle drivers about \$160, on average in reduced fuel costs over the lifetime of a set of tires.¹ Cumulatively, these same standards would save Rhode Island drivers about \$600 million in fuel costs through 2050.²

Replacement tire efficiency standards would also generate significant climate and air quality benefits in the state. Cumulatively, we estimate CO₂ emissions avoided through 2050 would be about 1.4 million metric tons. In that same period, 130 million gallons of gasoline and 620 Gigawatt hours of electricity would be saved. Air pollutant emissions of NO_x and PM_{2.5}, which are harmful to the human respiratory system and contribute to respiratory conditions, particularly in children, the elderly, and people with asthma, would also be avoided. A replacement tire efficiency standard would reduce annual NO_x by nearly 600 tons and PM_{2.5} emissions by nearly 40 tons in 2035. If replacement tires were as efficient as those shipped on new cars, cumulative PM_{2.5} emissions reductions in Rhode Island would be equivalent to the yearly exhaust emissions from over 7,000 diesel school buses, and the CO₂ emissions reductions would be equivalent to the yearly emissions from 4 gas-fired power plants.³

H7990 does not directly adopt a replacement tire efficiency standard, but rather enables the Department of Transportation to adopt one in the future. This allows for the state to align with the replacement tire efficiency standard being finalized by the California Energy Commission

¹ Based on preliminary analysis using the approach outlined in "Burning Rubber and Cash: How Inefficient Replacement Tires Are Costing Californians". Found at: <https://www.ccair.org/california-drivers-spend-an-extra-180-on-gas-due-to-inefficient-replacement-tires/>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.



(CEC), which is expected to be completed this year.⁴ The CEC standard will be the culmination of a five year public rulemaking that involved the active participation of tire manufacturers, environmental organizations, air quality organizations, and consumer advocates. By passing H7990 now, Rhode Island can act efficiently when the CEC standard is finalized.

Replacement tire efficiency standards improve affordability while advancing carbon neutrality, clean air, and public health. We urge you to support H7990 to enable the adoption of an efficiency standard for replacement tires in Rhode Island. 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

⁴ See Docket Log: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=20-TIRE-01>