



Via electronic submission

March 10, 2016

Committee Chair Arthur Handy (et al.)
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Committee on Environment and Natural Resource
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol # 323
Providence, RI, 02903

Re: H 7700- An Act to Relating to State Affairs and Government- Minimum Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Committee Chair Handy, Vice Chair Bennett, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)¹, please accept our comments regarding H 7700, An Act to Relating to State Affairs and Government- Minimum Energy and Water Efficiency Standards, submitted to the Committee on March 10, 2016, in response to the Chair's request for analysis of the Bill's impacts. NEEP is a regional non-profit that works to accelerate energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Our Policy Outreach and Analysis group serves as an information resource for policymakers, program administrators, Commissions, and others to support the adoption and implementation of public policies and programs that advance energy efficiency.

The proposed legislation would promote energy and cost savings for Rhode Island's consumers and businesses by enabling adoption of appliance standards already being embraced by states and product manufacturers throughout the country. It also grants the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources the authority to promulgate future appliance standards, transferring this obligation from the Public Utility Commission to the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources.

Appliance standards lock-in efficient products as the baseline available for sale within a given jurisdiction.

Appliance standards—and related energy efficiency policies—enable economic growth while avoiding costly investments in energy infrastructure such as new power plants or distribution systems.

Analysis performed by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project shows that adopting the standards detailed within this Bill would benefit Rhode Island's businesses and consumers through cost savings, energy savings, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. H 7700 and the accompanying standards would:

- Reduce utility bills for Rhode Island businesses and consumers by more than \$32 million annually by 2025;
- Save Rhode Island residents and businesses over 90.3 Gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity and 292,000 MMBtus of gas;
- And contribute to Rhode Island greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, avoiding 42,170 metric tons of CO₂ annually by 2025, the equivalent to taking more than 8,800 cars off the road.

¹ These comments are offered by NEEP staff and do not necessarily represent the view of the NEEP Board of Directors, sponsors or partners.

Please accept these comments in the spirit they are intended: to aid the Committee, and ultimately the businesses and consumers of Rhode Island, in better understanding the impacts of H 7700.

Contact information:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian D. Buckley".

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