



April 16, 2026

Dear Chair James and Members of the House Energy & Digital Infrastructure Committee,

On behalf of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, I write in support of H.600 and respectfully urge your committee to support this important, backstop policy as well.

For decades, baseline appliance efficiency standards have been a valuable way to get more energy out of many of the appliances Vermonters' use on a day-to-day basis, such as washers and dryers, refrigerators, water heaters and far more – saving people money and reducing energy demand through the wide deployment of more efficient technologies.

For decades, cost-saving appliance efficiency standards have enjoyed strong bipartisan support nationally. That shifted in 2017, when President Trump was first elected – and it has the potential to shift again, with potential new federal efforts to roll back efficiency programs.

Thankfully, in 2017, both the Legislature and Governor Scott moved quickly to protect Vermont consumers from potentially paying more for energy because of the rollback of cost-saving appliance efficiency measures. Similar action is needed now, in the event that any new federal rollback efforts are successful. Updating Vermont's existing appliance efficiency statute (9 V.S.A. Chapter 74) as a backstop is imperative to proactively protect Vermont consumers. H.600 does that.

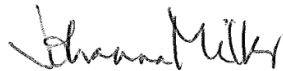
The cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. Baseline appliance efficiency standards are one key piece of that cost-saving equation. And, with energy costs soaring in Vermont and around the globe – and no clear end in sight to the uncertainty, price pain and market volatility – it's more important than ever that Vermont takes the thoughtful steps it can to reduce people's energy bills and economic anxiety.

When the Legislature and Governor established baseline appliance efficiency standards in 2017, other states followed suit. It was a forward-looking, proactive, and protective effort to shield Vermonters from paying more for their energy than necessary. Similar action is needed now as a backstop to potential federal rollbacks. H.600 ensures that if federal efficiency standards for particular products are eliminated, Vermont will maintain the standard in place as of January 1, 2025.

I respectfully urge the committee to support H.600. It's a simple, straightforward, and sensible step to lock in cost-saving protections for Vermonters in the event of federal rollbacks.

Thank you for your important work and consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johanna Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Johanna Miller  
*Energy & Climate Program Director*