



**Date:** April 16, 2026

**To:** House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure

**From:** Timothy Perrin, Director of Energy Management

**Subject:** H.600 Draft No. 1.1

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Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (VGS) is a fully regulated utility and one of the three energy efficiency utilities (EEU) appointed by the State of Vermont. We serve more than 56,000 customers in Addison, Chittenden, and Franklin counties. In addition to providing these Vermonters with natural gas to warm their homes and businesses, our teams help them identify the most efficient and cost-effective thermal solutions for their needs. We facilitate comprehensive weatherization and the installation and maintenance of gas and electric heating and cooling systems.

As an energy services provider, we are very familiar with the role Federal and State appliance standards play. Clear and predictable standards help guide consumers and installers to trusted appliance options that are efficient and often have lower operating costs. In our dual role as a utility and EEU, we work at the intersection of policy, market, and our customers. We help the State translate efficiency policy into practical program offerings; we help contractors and distributors anticipate where the market is heading; and we help our customers — homeowners, small businesses, schools, and institutions — navigate equipment decisions that often involve significant upfront cost and long service lives. That perspective informs our view that appliance standards work best when they are clearly defined, federally-aligned where possible, and supported by enough lead time for the EEUs and the contractor community to align program offerings, customer education, and rebate structures with the new baselines.

We have reviewed [H.600](#) as introduced and [Draft 1.1](#) of the proposal. Draft 1.1's approach is consistent with the changes that were incorporated into law in 2017. Recognizing that the body of knowledge informing appliance standards has expanded overtime, we generally support amending the date in 9 V.S.A. § 2795(6) to reflect updates that were incorporated into Federal appliance standards between 2017 and the end of 2024. Doing so would provide additional certainty to our organization, teams, and the appliance installers in Vermont's HVAC marketplace.