



S.65, An Act Relating to Energy Efficiency Utility Jurisdiction

Senate Finance Committee

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Vermont Chamber of Commerce

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The Vermont Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of all sizes, in all industries, in every corner of Vermont. We understand what it takes to help businesses grow and thrive to build strong and vibrant communities, and our members have trusted us to center stewardship in our mission of advancing the Vermont economy.

On behalf of our members, we want to share concerns with S.65 related to its potential to add costs to businesses across Vermont. With expert testimony from state regulators, both the Public Utility Commission and Department of Public Service which both raise concerns that this bill would drive up costs for Vermonters, there is reason to pause and ensure there is a full understanding of the potential impacts. The Senate Finance Committee has played a critical role in the development and approval of electric efficiency policies in the past and we appreciate the perspective the committee offers to find the balance between benefits and costs of these programs to all Vermonters.

We are concerned that this bill may duplicate Vermont's electric utilities' efforts on electrification work, and subsequently result in increased electricity costs, compounding with the automatic inflation adjusted increases to the electric efficiency charge. These are costs that Vermont businesses will need to absorb, while at the same time many other costs and economic uncertainties are significantly increasing. As we work toward a cleaner energy future, we thank the committee for a commitment to ensure energy policies do not create unintended consequences for ratepayers—particularly for the very businesses and communities they aim to support.

Thank you for your continued work for Vermonters and for the opportunity to provide comment.