Memorandum of Support

January 20, 2022

S.7176 (Parker)/A.8143(Fahy)

**Purpose:** To remove current barriers in the Energy Law that could impede the adoption of updates to the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (Energy Code) needed to align the Energy Code with the clean energy and climate policies and goals of the State, as well as increase the state's efficiency standards for appliances.

**Statement of Support:** Residential and commercial buildings account for approximately 60% of total energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in New York State.¹ This legislation essentially modernizes the state's building codes and expands the state's appliance standards. It enables building code changes to phase out fossil fuels from existing buildings, and authorizes the NYS Codes Council to incorporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards into building codes. The bill also introduces new energy and water standards for products such as televisions, computers, and lighting, all of which were not previously included in state energy efficiency standards.

New Yorkers will save billions of dollars as a result of the updated appliance efficiency standards to reduce energy use. Implementation of advanced building codes is expected to reduce utility bills by an estimated $2.5 billion by 2030. The proposed product and appliance standards will deliver a projected $15 billion of total utility bill savings by 2035 for New York consumers, including an estimated $6 billion in total utility bill savings for low- to moderate-income households.

This bill is necessary to implement the Governor’s energy efficiency and climate change mitigation goals, to reduce energy consumption by 185 trillion BTUs below forecasted levels by 2025. S.7176/A.8143 will aid in implementing New York’s nation-leading climate law, while simultaneously providing New Yorkers with cost savings associated with highly efficient buildings, appliances, and equipment.

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support of S.7176/A.8143

¹ [https://www.c2es.org/document/decarbonizing-u-s-buildings/]