



The Energy and Technology Committee
Public Hearing, March 4, 2021
Office of Consumer Counsel
Richard E. Sobolewski, Acting Consumer Counsel
Testimony of Richard E. Sobolewski

S.B. No. 882

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION
AND HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY

As Acting Consumer Counsel and head of the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC), I have reviewed Senate Bill No. 882, An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability. OCC **supports** the Bill.

OCC has reviewed Raised Bill No. 882, which seeks (1) updated greenhouse gas emission level reductions, (2) to allow the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to solicit proposals for defined energy products or benefits, (3) to direct landlords to include a Home Energy Label to prospective tenants, and (4) to direct residential property owners to provide a Home Energy Label when the property is publically listed for sale.

The OCC generally supports the Raised Bill and is in favor of meeting the State's 2040 climate-change goals outlined in Section 1 in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. OCC has no proposed changes to Section 2 of the Raised Bill. Regarding Sections 3 and 4 of the Raised Bill, OCC believes that providing prospective renters and homeowners with

the important consumer protection information from a Home Energy Label is an important step in raising consumer education of energy efficiency measures and programs that can assist with steps to make a home more energy efficient. Tenants may not have control over many aspects of energy efficiency in their unit, so the Home Energy Label information would provide another metric that tenants can use to evaluate whether to rent a unit, and landlords will be incentivized to employ energy efficiency measures to make rental units more efficient to prospective tenants. Additionally, understanding historical electricity, natural gas, or heating fuel costs prior to committing to rent or buy a property provides not only useful budgeting information for the new occupant, but also further incentivizes the property owner to take steps to maximize the energy efficiency of the dwelling to be competitive with other comparable units on the market.

Conclusion

I support Raised Bill 882 and look forward to working toward its passage in this legislative session.