

Testimony in support of H5576: Utility Thermal Networks and Jobs Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2025

To Chair Solomon and the honorable Members of the House Corporations Committee:

I support the bill because it promotes the deployment of thermal energy networks projects in Rhode Island to meet our greenhouse gas emissions, just transition, and equity goals, and creates new jobs in the green industry.

The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to work with an advisory committee to promulgate rules and regulations for thermal networks that

- create fair market access rules to accept thermal energy that aligns with our climate justice, just transition, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions requirements ,
- do not increase greenhouse gas emissions or co-pollutants, i.e. do not use dirty “natural” (methane) gas as fuel,
- promote the training and transition of utility workers impacted, and
- enable equitable cost recovery by utilities for thermal energy networks.

It also sets a timetable for thermal energy pilot projects, with an initial list of locations.

Since the bill was held and not voted on in 2024, I urge you to not lose more time and to bring the bill to a vote on the House floor in 2025.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for re-introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

Mar 30, 2025

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