

Representative Solomon, Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives

March 21st, 2024

Re: Support for H7285 – Utility Thermal Networks and Jobs Act

Dear Chair Solomon and members of the Committee,

My name is Dave and I am a resident of Bristol, RI. I'm writing in support of this bill because we need to do all that we can to reduce fossil fuel emissions and limit the effects of climate change.

Frankly, climate change keeps me up at night. I'm planning on having kids in the next couple of years, but I'm incredibly worried about the future we are currently on track to leave for them, and I am in turmoil. I'm going to feel a lot more hopeful if the necessary action is taken today.

It is at times like this we need strong leadership from our elected officials to do the right thing. To ensure a future of clean energy and limit the effects of climate change, we need to deploy thermal energy networks at the utility scale to provide clean district heating or thermal sinks for heat pumps and find a way to use existing gas network infrastructure and utility worker expertise where possible.

This bill has to pass, and it cannot be the only one. It has to happen in concert with the building decarbonization and clean heat acts, removing fossil fuels from the electric grid (delivering on the 2033 Renewable Energy Standard) and the transportation sector wherever possible.

I plead the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,



David Stevens Crane

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