

RI House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

March 21, 2024

RE: H7782 RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- THE RHODE ISLAND CLEAN HEAT STANDARD ACT

Dear Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

Our firm writes in support of H7782. As attorneys who represent clean energy interests in Rhode Island, we are acutely aware of the challenge of establishing a clean energy economy and reaching the goals we have set, as a state, and the importance of establishing clear standards for energy generators to plan toward achieving those goals.

Approximately one third of our total energy use is in the thermal sector, making it a major contributor to our greenhouse gas emissions, as described in the report Rhode Island Renewable Thermal Market Development Strategy, in January 2017 for Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. In addition to providing a pathway to eliminating these GHG emissions, the Clean Heat Standard will help the state unlock economic opportunity, as much as \$193 million in lifetime net benefits, including employment and environmental impacts, and reduced vulnerability to disruptions in energy infrastructure, increase consumer choice, and create synergies with increasing distributed generation systems

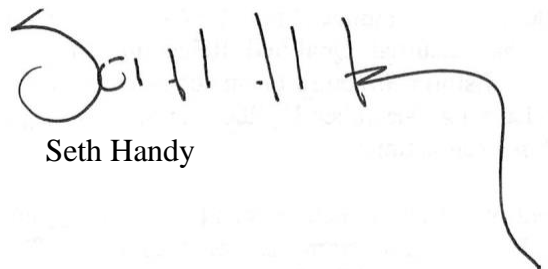
The RI OER report also recommends establishing statewide renewable thermal market development targets, as an important step to foster development and private investment toward reducing long-term GHG emissions.

Additionally, states such as New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well as the United Kingdom and communities throughout Europe, have already had success in this process (see, OER report, p. 47).

This bill acts on extensive research, establishes a necessary standard for achieving a goal we must meet, and does so equitably. As we transition to a clean energy economy, a Clean Heat Standard as proposed in this bill enables our energy providers to chart a path and creates a flexible accountability system that ensures we meet these goals.

Please pass H7782. Thank you for your great leadership on this and your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seth Handy", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Seth Handy