



## ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND

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March 11, 2025

The Honorable David Bennett  
Chairman, House Committee on Environment & Natural Resources  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H.5493, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Decarbonization Act of 2025

Chairman Bennett and Committee Members:

The Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island would like to express concerns to H.5493 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Decarbonization Act of 2025.

H.5493 prohibits building permits for certain buildings. No city or town shall issue a permit submitted after December 31, 2025, for new construction or alteration of any residential, commercial, or mixed-use building that is not electric-ready. This indicates the building is designed with sufficient capacity for a future retrofit of a mixed-use full building to an all-electric building, including space, drainage, electrical conductors, etc. An exemption does exist if some component is not physically or technically infeasible. Financial consideration is not sufficient.

No permit shall be issued (submitted after December 31, 2025) for new State of Rhode Island owned building construction or alternation projects that are not electric-ready – again unless not physically or technically feasible. Financial consideration for heating fuel consumers is a great concern especially when they are using Biodiesel to heat their homes and have energy star equipment.

The state of Rhode Island retail distributors of home heating oil, referred to as “heating fuel dealers,” provide warmth and comfort to many Rhode Islanders and most dealers are small family owned businesses. Rhode Island has led the way for renewable liquid heating fuels, 2017 mandated 5% renewable blend, 2023 the state mandate went to 10% and this past January 2025 the mandate increased to 20%. By 2050 the mandate will have a net zero heating fuel. This industry, our hometown businesses, has the solution and has been providing blends of biodiesel and renewable diesel.

EMARI is asking that renewable liquid heating fuels working in step with the states Biodiesel mandate are afforded the right to be issued building permits. EMARI is concerned with consumer choice, affordability, reliability, and safety. For these reasons EMARI is opposed to the bill drafted.

Sincerely,



Diane Quesnelle  
Executive Director  
Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island  
16 Miller Street  
Warren, RI 02885