



Climate Jobs Rhode Island
1540 Pontiac Ave Suite A,
Cranston, RI 02920

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Representative David A. Bennett
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Support H-5493, Building Decarbonization Act of 2025

Dear Chair Bennett and Committee Members,

My name is Aislinn Hanley and I am submitting these comments on behalf of Climate Jobs Rhode Island, in strong support of the H-5493, the Building Decarbonization Act of 2025. Climate Jobs Rhode Island (CJRI) is a coalition of more than thirty (30) labor unions, environmental, and community organizations committed to working together to make Rhode Island a national leader in the development of a resilient 21st century economy through a Just Transition, that centers our frontline communities and frontline workers.

Our members range from those who represent the frontline workers who build, repair, and maintain Rhode Island's critical infrastructure and energy systems, to community groups like the United Way of RI and Childhood Lead Action Project, to environmental organizations like The Nature Conservancy, and Clean Water Action.

This bill is a necessary step in addressing Rhode Island's building sector emissions, which account for nearly 30% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. H-5493 establishes building performance standards, ensuring that large buildings track and reduce their emissions over time. This is a practical, phased approach that will drive investment in energy efficiency, HVAC upgrades, electrical work, and building operations, creating sustained job opportunities for skilled tradespeople.

Importantly, the bill also supports all-electric ready new construction, setting clear guidelines for future buildings to be built with clean energy technology. It includes labor standards and apprenticeship requirements, ensuring that these projects provide quality jobs while strengthening Rhode Island's clean energy workforce.

The bill also lays the foundation for future expansion, including potential requirements for large municipal and private buildings, ensuring compliance with the Act on Climate's net-zero

mandate by 2050. Rhode Island would be following the lead of other states such as California, Colorado, Georgia, and others, that have successfully implemented building benchmarking and or performance standards at state and or municipal levels, positioning us as a regional leader in clean energy and workforce development.

I urge you to support H-5493 to advance both climate action and economic opportunity in Rhode Island. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aislinn Hanley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aislinn" and the last name "Hanley" clearly distinguishable.

Aislinn Hanley
Climate Jobs Rhode Island