

Rep. David Bennett, Chair  
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
RI House of Representatives

**SUPPORT FOR H5493 The Building Decarbonization Act of 2025**

March 12, 2025

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joel Gates. I am a resident of Glocester and a member of Climate Action Rhode Island. I am writing in strong support of the Building Decarbonization Act of 2025. Rhode Island has established decarbonizing paths forward for the transportation and electricity generation sectors so we can meet our Act on Climate emissions goals. Now it is time to begin Rhode Island's path to decarbonizing our buildings. We do not have any time to waste!

A little over ten years ago my wife and I decided to decarbonize and fully electrify our home. Now we are living in a much cleaner environment and saving money on our energy costs. Yes, we spent a substantial amount to make the switch, but we are so glad we did. Granted, this doesn't compare with a large commercial or municipal building, but energy efficiency improvements made now will pay dividends in the future no matter the building's size or use!

I am disappointed that Section 3 of the bill will require all new buildings to be electric-ready instead of fully electric. This seems like kicking the can down the road. And that can is very expensive, both for future energy expenses and our deteriorating environment. I fully support this bill even with Section 3 included.

Please support H5493 and pass it out of committee. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Joel Gates  
Glocester, RI