



LWVRI Testimony In support of H 5493: Building Decarbonization Act of 2025

Hearing Date: March 12, 2025

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair David Bennet and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The League of Women Voters of Rhode Island strongly supports and urges you to pass House Bill 5493, the Building Decarbonization Act of 2025. This bill is a priority for the League's Climate Team as well as for the RI Environment Council.

Climate challenges abound today. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are a key cause of climate change - and the resultant warming of our planet and its rising seas. Rhode Island's Act on Climate has set goals to address these challenges. Plans to address carbon emissions in the transportation and electricity generation sector have been developed. It is time to put in place plans to address carbon emissions from the building sector. Heating buildings produces almost 1/3 of all emissions in the state.

According to the 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, buildings in Rhode Island contribute 30% to the overall greenhouse gas emissions in this state. That was 5 years ago. A building decarbonization plan is needed this year. Rhode Island must minimize carbon emissions from every possible source, but especially from those which are the biggest polluters. It is time to pass H 5493.

The Building Decarbonization Act would take into consideration environmental justice factors and further ensure that the "office of energy resources has dedicated resources sufficient to administer its responsibilities under this chapter to enable swift and steady progress towards RI's net zero mandate."

The time for action is now. Our community and business buildings must diminish their carbon footprint if we expect to reach our state's climate goals, if we expect to reduce greenhouse gases in any significant way, if we expect to mitigate the realities of a rapidly changing climate and the onslaught of our rising seas.

The RI League of Women Voters urges you to support H 5493 and send it to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Thank you,

Diana (Donnie) McGee

Diana (Donnie) McGee, LWVRI Climate Team Chair

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