

Testimony in support of House Bill 5493, House Committee on Environment and Natural resources, March 12, 2025, by Peter Trafton, Providence Rhode Island

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I write with the strongest possible support for the Building Decarbonization Act of 2025 – H5493 sponsored by Representative Kislak and colleagues.

The buildings of Rhode Island contribute significantly to our states greenhouse gas emissions. To meet the criteria of the Act on Climate, we must rein these emissions in. But so far we have made minimal progress in the building sector. The paths to success are clear. We must follow them. Rep Kislak's bill is an important guide.

While discussions and arguments have continued, the City of Providence has shown that energy use benchmarking can be done in Rhode Island, as is now being done for some of the state's larger buildings. Let's pass the bill and get it started, for public and private buildings. Let's prepare to follow Providence closely with performance standards for our larger buildings, emphasizing our successful energy efficiency practices.

And let's remember that electrification of all our buildings is an ultimate necessity. It is essential that all new buildings be designed and built to meet this requirement.

The Act on Climate will help Rhode Island address the opportunities of our essential energy transition. We should start moving our buildings in that direction in 2025. Please help us move forward with H5493.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "P" and "G" being particularly prominent.

Peter Trafton