

March 12, 2025

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman, House Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: H-5493 – Relating to Health & Safety – Building Decarbonization Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Bennett:

On behalf of Rhode Island Energy, please find below comments pertaining to H-5493, the Building Decarbonization Act of 2025.

Rhode Island Energy provides essential energy services to more than 770,000 customers across the state through the delivery of electricity and natural gas. Our team of 1,400 union and non-union employees is dedicated to helping Rhode Island customers and communities thrive, while supporting the transition to a cleaner energy future in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Respectfully, we note the following:

- The financial costs and potential benefits of this proposed mandate are not fully known. A policy of this magnitude should be grounded by transparent, data-driven analysis prior to advancement, such that policymakers and other stakeholders understand its implications for consumer affordability and the state's economy.
- Page 7, lines 2-7: Rhode Island Energy appreciates the provision allowing for recovery of costs that may be incurred to implement the building benchmarking components of the bill; we thank Representative Kislak and fellow bill sponsors for its inclusion. However, the requirement to demonstrate "good faith efforts" to secure other funding sources "prior to filing" establishes an unclear and undefined standard. It may also be unnecessary considering the Public Utilities Commission's existing authority to determine what are prudently incurred expenses by a public utility. Respectfully, we ask that the language beginning with "prior to filing" on line 3 through "funding options" on line 5 be struck.

Rhode Island Energy thanks the Committee for its consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,



Nicholas S. Ucci
Director of Government Affairs

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Rebecca M. Kislak, Rhode Island House of Representatives