

NORTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OF

SHEET METAL | AIR | RAIL | TRANSPORTATION



Local 17 - Local 40 - Local 63 - Local 83

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LOCAL 17

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March 11, 2025

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of H-5493, Building Decarbonization Act of 2025.

H-5493 is a necessary step in addressing Rhode Island's building sector emissions, which account for nearly 30% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions. It 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. As building owners work toward compliance with emissions targets, they will need to upgrade heating and cooling systems, install advanced energy controls, and implement efficiency measures, all of which require a well-trained workforce. This bill not only supports existing workers but also creates pathways into high-quality careers in the trades, ensuring long-term workforce growth.

Passing this bill:

1. Supports all-electric new construction
2. Sets clear guidelines for future buildings to be built with clean energy technology.
3. By incorporating strong labor standards and apprenticeship requirements, it guarantees that these projects create good-paying, high-quality jobs while strengthening Rhode Island's clean energy workforce and supporting a just transition to a low-carbon economy.

I urge you to support H-5493 to advance both climate action and economic opportunity in Rhode Island.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Donlan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" and last name "Donlan" clearly legible.

Patrick Donlan, Council Representative
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