

Support of The Building Decarbonization Act of 2025 (H5493)

March 12, 2025

To: Rhode Island House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the Committee,

My name is Will Nakshian and I live in Cumberland. I am an activist member of Climate Action Rhode Island.

I am submitting testimony in support of The Building Decarbonization Act of 2025 (H5493). To meet our Act on Climate emissions reductions, we must take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our large buildings. Passing this bill is a critical first step to start understanding building energy usage so we can develop standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I testified at the state house four years ago as a climate activist hoping we could achieve the goals of Act on Climate so that we could make the state a cleaner, greener, more livable place for me and my children. Moving forward on this bill will bring Rhode Island closer to meeting its goals for the Act on Climate bill.

Another reason to pass this bill is that I believe that moving Rhode Island toward a green economy will benefit everyone in the state economically. Rhode Island sends billions of dollars a year out of the state to import our energy used for transportation, industry and building heating and cooling. Imagine if we produced most of our own energy in the state AND conserved our energy by using as little as possible. We would be keeping more dollars in the state that could be used to solve a myriad of other problems. A strong green economy would make our state more livable and attractive to a younger, knowledge-based workforce that would help revitalize our growth. Benchmarking is one small relatively inexpensive investment that will help us achieve that ability to conserve our energy. This is a small investment for larger savings in the future.

Thank you,

Will Nakshian
Cumberland, Rhode Island