

TO: HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

SUBJECT: **Support for House Bill No. 7183** BUILDING BENCHMARKING AND REPORTING ACT OF 2026

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara K. Watts, and I live in Kingston, RI. I am submitting testimony in support of bill 7183. I am the State Coordinator for the Rhode Island Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby and represent our 800+ state members. I am a Senior Marine Scientist, Emerita, at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography.

I applaud the tenacity and leadership of the members of the House who have repeatedly introduced and co-sponsored this important bill over the last several years. Addressing the carbon and other polluting emissions of large buildings is fundamental to improving the health and welfare of all Rhode Island citizens. This bill would measure building emissions, providing critical insight into their impacts, expanding the understanding of each building owner, as well as our collective understanding of the resulting benefits. This knowledge leads to cost savings when standards are implemented, and would also be a boon to those employed in the resulting labor.

What benefit is there to delaying this action? I and members of the RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby urge members of this committee to act this session. When brought to a vote our members will contact their individual representatives with their support and a reminder that a vote in its favor would address concerns of a majority of all voters in RI who are concerned about human caused climate change and that they want their state government to do more about it according to polls by [Yale University Climate Change Communications](#).



Rhode Island



Worried

Not Worried

Global warming is caused mostly by human activities



My Governor should do more to address global warming



Local officials should do more to address global warming



Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts, Kingston, RI 02881

State Coordinator, Rhode Island Citizens Climate Lobby