



Rhode Island House of Representatives
Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Representative David Bennett, Chair

March 11, 2026

In Support of House Bill 7183

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

I am writing today to strongly urge you to **support the Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026 (H 7183)**. This legislation is a necessary step towards decarbonizing our state's buildings sector and meeting our legally mandated carbon emissions goals outlined in the Act on Climate.

As a young Rhode Islander, I care deeply about building the infrastructure necessary for my generation's future prosperity. Buildings account for 30% of the state's carbon emissions, and requiring large building owners to track and report their carbon emissions is the first step towards reducing them. Other cities and states, including California, Massachusetts, and New York City already have similar laws in effect. Now is not the time for us to fall behind.

Building new housing, including large apartment and condo buildings, is also urgent, but this urgency makes it all the more important to decarbonize the building sector. It is better to build new housing sustainably the first time than be forced to undertake expensive retrofits later. We do not need to sacrifice sustainability for an abundance of housing.

Sincerely,

Evan Tao

103 Thayer Street, Providence RI

Brown University Campus Representative, Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition