

Rep. David A. Bennett, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
R.I. House of Representatives

March 11, 2026

SUPPORT: H7183 Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,

Until we in Rhode Island, the nation, and the world fully embrace renewables, we are going to face the anxiety-laden, stomach-churning, and totally avoidable roller coaster price ride of fossil fuels! The current Mid-east illegal war isn't the first and won't be the last cause of dinosaur fuel price spikes.

So if we refuse to move on from these volatile fuels, then we must seek other ways to tackle affordability. Decarbonizing our buildings is a great way to pay less for our energy use until we can accept the promise of renewables!

H7183 The Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026 will help building owners collect energy use data so those owners will know where to target energy saving resources. Once the owners know how much energy is being used and what that energy is used for, efficiency measures can be better utilized.

This is just the first step, but it is easy, inexpensive, and so necessary to realize energy and monetary savings!

Please support this Act and pass it out of committee. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Joel Gates
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