

The Honorable David A. Bennett House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Support for H-7183, Building Energy Benchmarking

Dear Chair Bennett and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Patrick Donlan, and I am here on behalf of **NERC of SMART, Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 17** which represents Sheet Metal Workers in the trades. I write in support of H-7183, which establishes building energy benchmarking requirements.

FOR LABOR UNIONS: NERC of SMART, Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 17 represents 200 workers across Rhode Island who play an important role in supporting our state's communities and economy. Our members work every day to ensure that the places where Rhode Islanders live, work, and learn are safe, healthy, and resilient.

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ORGS: NERC of SMART, Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 17 represents community members and advocates committed to advancing climate solutions, environmental protection, and public health in Rhode Island. Our work focuses on supporting policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand clean energy, and build a more resilient and equitable economy.

Energy benchmarking is a critical first step in understanding how buildings use energy and identifying opportunities for cost-effective improvements. By tracking energy use in larger buildings, Rhode Island can identify inefficiencies, reduce operating costs, and plan for future upgrades that improve building performance.

Programs like this create opportunities for projects that upgrade heating and cooling systems, electrical infrastructure, insulation, and building controls. These improvements support local jobs across the construction and building trades while helping building owners reduce long-term energy costs.

Benchmarking provides the information needed to guide smart investments in building improvements while supporting Rhode Island's climate and affordability goals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Donlan

Regional Manager
NERC of SMART, Sheet Metal Workers Local 17