



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 11, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett
Chairman
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7183 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Bennett,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7183, which would institute energy benchmarking requirements for buildings. DEM respectfully opposes this legislation and urges the legislature to instead consider enactment of the proposal found in Article 3, Section 16 of the Governor's FY 2027 budget.

Governor McKee has proposed a building decarbonization program in his Fiscal Year 2027 budget in Article 3, Section 16. This proposal would require the creation of an energy benchmarking and building performance standards program for public buildings of 25,000 gross square feet or larger. Assessing energy usage in large state buildings will help inform building owners of their energy usage and is a right-sized approach to tackling energy benchmarking. This proposal represents an effort that the state can implement with existing resources and would make a meaningful impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. We urge the legislature to approve the proposal found in the budget.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
The Honorable Rebecca Kislak
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director