

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.

I'm a student at Brown University, and an environmental organizer. I'm also a Rhode Islander and a product of Cranston Public Schools. I'm very proud of the state I'm from, and I want to continue being proud of our state. That will stop being possible if we forfeit the potential we have to be climate leaders.

This bill will be one (of many) necessary step(s) mitigating our state's climate impacts will require taking strategic, measurable steps to decarbonize. The Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026 **does not** demand a drastic change in how the building industry operates. By tracking where our carbon emissions are actually coming from, this legislation provides the state with the necessary information to develop an effective, *implementable* plan – one that is required for us to meet the provisions of the Act on Climate. Providence, Massachusetts, California, New York City, and other cities and states already have similar legislation in effect. Rhode Island has historically been a leader in taking steps to address climate change. Now is not the time to fall behind.

With buildings accounting for 30% of Rhode Island's climate emissions, the second largest source following the transportation sector, decarbonizing RI's building stock is a commonsense way to set our state on the path to a viable climate alternative.

Sincerely,
Theo Pfeiffer
Cranston, Rhode Island
Rhode Island Student Climate Coalition

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