

TO: HouseEnvironmentandNaturalResources@rilegislature.gov

SUBJECT: **Support for House Bill No. 7184 BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

ACT OF 2026

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Barbara K. Watts, and I live in Kingston, RI. I am submitting testimony in **support of bill 7184**. I am the State Coordinator for the Rhode Island Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby and represent our 800+ state members. I am a Senior Marine Scientist, Emerita, at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography.

This bill is the logical follow-on to House Bill 7183 whose purpose is to measure building emissions. Without action to follow up 7183 with standards for buildings, 7183 is a hollow effort and a waste of the small amount of money measuring emissions will cost.

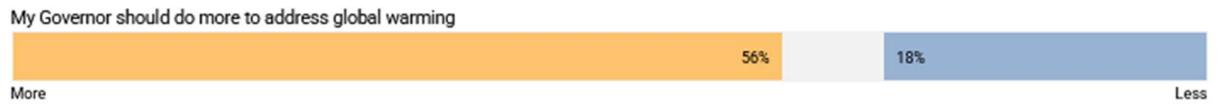
Given the thoughtful timeline provided by this bill, implementing it now, in this legislature, makes good sense. This bill provides time for the state government to develop and educate about standards and for building owners to comply. While the target date for standards is December 31, 2028 there will be advisory boards immediately established to address “technical assistance, owner needs, outreach and education, opportunities for funding related to the chapter, the implementation of state policies, programs, and statutes...” and “potential impacts on, benefits to, and special considerations for individuals and communities impacted by poverty and environmental injustice.”

Building owners are given time to act as well, submitting interim reports.

Why delay action that is fundamental to improving the health and welfare of all Rhode Island citizens. Buildings that are efficient in heating and cooling will ultimately benefit residents’ costs and health. It would add employment opportunities as well.

The RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby urge members of this committee to act on Bill No. 7184 this session. When brought to a vote our members will contact their individual representatives with their support and a reminder that a vote in its favor would address concerns of a majority of all voters in RI who are concerned about human caused climate change and that they want their state government to do more about it according to polls by

Yale University Climate Change Communications.



Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts, Kingston, RI 02881

State Coordinator, Rhode Island Citizens Climate Lobby