



Executive Office of Housing
State of Rhode Island
One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor
Providence, RI 02908

March 11, 2026

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

RE: H 7184

Dear Chairman Bennett:

The Executive Office of Housing (EOH) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on H 7184, the Building Performance Standards Act of 2026, which would phase in energy performance standards for covered properties. EOH respectfully submits testimony in opposition to this bill.

EOH recognizes the importance of addressing the climate crisis and working to meet the state's climate requirements. It is important to note, however, that there may be unintended consequences of this legislation on the housing market; the costs imposed on building owners and managers through compliance with this legislation may be passed on to residents, resulting in higher housing costs that exacerbate our current affordability crisis.

EOH is eager to support policies that bring the state closer to reaching climate goals without exacerbating the unaffordability of housing for Rhode Islanders. We urge the legislature to instead consider enacting Governor McKee's proposed Energy Benchmarking and Performance Standards Program contained in Article 3, Section 16 of the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and welcome the chance to continue working with the Speaker, the Committee, and bill sponsors as these proposals move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah J. Goddard".

Deborah J. Goddard
Secretary of Housing

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