

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 Dr. Caroly Shumway. I am a resident of Cumberland, RI, and an oceanographer, climate educator, and a member of the nonpartisan 800-member strong RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (RICCL). **I am writing in strong support of House Bill No. 7184, and I hope that you will support it too.**

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, this just delays the benefits that the state will reap by increasing our climate efforts.

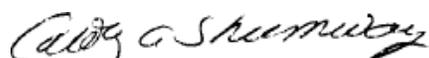
Given the thoughtful timeline provided by this bill, implementing it now, in this legislature, makes good sense. This bill provides time for the state government to develop and educate about standards and for building owners to comply. While the target date for standards is December 31, 2028, advisory boards will be 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 data from Yale’s Center for Climate Communication (2024) shows that the majority of Rhode Islanders want our government officials to take action. I urge you to reflect the will of your voters and support this bill.

Sincerely,



Dr. Caroly Shumway, Cumberland, RI 02864