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From: Jessica Avizinis <jessica.avizinis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 4:16 AM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: We don't have any more time-support of HB: 7183, 7184, 7484, 7623, 7739, & 8132

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To the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I'm writing in support of house bills 7183, 7184, 7484, 7623, 7739, & 8132. I'm an experienced, career Environment, Health & Safety professional with a bachelor's degree and Master's degree in science. I'm also a mother, aunt, friend, daughter and naturalist who cares deeply for the planet and the people on it. I'm well aware that the breadth of research in climate change has summarized that we don't have much time before human impacts on environmental systems become too large to overcome and will lead to more catastrophic events across the globe. These bills are an important step in the direction of halting additional progress towards that catastrophic end.

7183: In my career, I've been a member of several teams looking to reduce energy consumption and increase the sustainability of a facility's operations both in academia and industry. I can say with experience that prioritization of effort and investment is not nearly as effective and efficient as it should be in the absence of baseline data. Knowing that budgets are frequently limited for environmentally-beneficial infrastructure projects, HB 7183 would greatly increase the efficacy of local efforts to reduce the environmental impact of our state infrastructure. It is a necessary foundation to ensuring the right projects are funded and in what order.

7184: Building standards can go a long way in embedding expectations of sustainable infrastructure into the development activities in our state. The array of options has expanded greatly in the last few decades granting developers a wide range of choice when it comes to ensuring their projects are considering a greener future.

7484: That a carbon impact report is not already a requirement for large development projects is shocking considering the dire nature of climate change. While I think any waiver included in this bill should require conservation of protected lands, it is again important to establish a minimum expectation to those who will profit off of development in the state to at least attempt to comply with the Act on Climate.

7623: State construction projects at a minimum should be establishing a gold standard for the environment and citizens of the state. While I believe the threshold for 10million and above projects is low, I think that a checklist requiring consideration of the critical features of access, renewable energy, flooding etc. must be in place to demonstrate our state's commitment to the environment and its people.

7739: Requiring large projects to require to LEED standards is not difficult to do considering the levels that exist within the LEED construction guidelines. There are many tools, resources and experts who can enable and facilitate this expectation and is an easy win.

8132: Geothermal heating for large projects is sadly underutilized despite the efficiency and sustainability granted. The initial investment is bigger than conventional methods but the cost of operation after that is extremely minimal. If on a cost basis alone, geothermal heating for projects of a certain square footage is the right choice. Finland, which freezes more deeply and has more snow than Rhode Island ever sees in a season, uses a lot of geothermal heating as well as heat recovery from large data centers to heat shared spaces and in some cases melt ice on the roads. Currently Rhode Island's climate is far more mild which would enable the state to make some initial investments that enable sustainable and low cost operations well into the future.

There are many opportunities in these bills to ensure Rhode Island's contributions to climate change are minimized. Being the smallest state, doesn't limit Rhode Island from being a leader in this space. Please support these bills with me, my children, nieces, nephews, friends, parents, etc.

Thank you,

Jess

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.