

Trafton Testimony Supporting H 7069, House Environment Committee March 25, 2026

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence Rhode Island urging you to remove so-called "clean coal" from consideration as an acceptable source of energy for heating or electricity in the state of Rhode Island. H 7069 by Rep McGaw and colleagues will accomplish this.

Notwithstanding the absurd comments of coal merchants, their minions, and our current federal government, coal is more expensive than any other energy source, and remains dirtier, even after undergoing diverse costly and only partially successful mitigating technologies. It's bad for our pocketbooks, it's bad for our health, and should in no way be preserved for our children and grandchildren.

That we should need to have this law, and we do, is an example of the sadly effective efforts of advertising and promotion so well documented in the *Merchants of Doubt* [Oreskes, Naomi, Conway, Erik M.]

Please pass 7069 so that we can go on with more necessary efforts to protect Rhode Islanders and their environment.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "P" and "T" being particularly prominent.

Peter Trafton