



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

March 25, 2026

Representative David A. Bennett  
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee House  
82 Smith St, House Lounge  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H7069: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Energy Facility Siting Act

Dear Representative Bennett:

I write to you in support of H7069: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- Energy Facility Siting Act. This bill removes clean coal as a renewable fuel given priority as an energy generation project.

This simple change to the Energy Facility Siting Act will reorient our energy goals away from the pseudoscience promulgated by the fossil fuel industry and towards an energy plan for our state that is sustainable, renewable, and affordable.

The coal industry in the United States is diminishing as competition from wind, solar, and natural gas increases. Still, coal supplies roughly 1/3 of the energy used for electricity in the United States, according to Green America. As coal continues to wane, multi-billion-dollar fossil fuel lobbyists have pushed this false notion of “clean coal” onto consumers and state legislators.

There is absolutely nothing clean about coal. Even if every coal power plant in the country adopted expensive carbon capture and storage technologies, the impact of mining coal would still devastate the environment, to say nothing of the brutal health impacts mining coal has on miners. By doing away with the term “clean coal” in our state’s code, we are not only using the power of language but the power of state policy to ensure that generations of Rhode Islanders have clean air to breath, clean water to drink, and affordable, sustainable energy powering their homes.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos  
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor  
CC: Rep. Michelle McGaw