

Testimony in support of H7081: Next Generation Public Buildings Act

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: March 25, 2026

To Chair Bennett and the honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I support the bill because it will provide for the most affordable alternatives for heating public buildings.

It is overdue to stop locking Rhode Islanders into the most expensive energy sources for years to come, and finally move away from “natural” gas, heating oil or other fossil fuels to more efficient, affordable and available technologies like heat pumps and geothermal energy.

The bill leads by example, saves money, and encourages residents to follow the example of communal buildings and move away from using fossil fuels for heating their homes.

Bringing the bill to a floor vote could not be more timely, because the attack on Iran shows us that avoidable dependency on the global fossil fuel markets leads, again, to extreme fuel prices that can be avoided by increasing our reliance on inexpensive, clean, abundant and more efficient renewable energy and technologies.

Since precursors of this bill, like last year’s “Lead by Example” bill were held and not voted on, I urge you to not lose more time and to bring this bill to a vote on the House floor in 2026.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Boylan for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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