

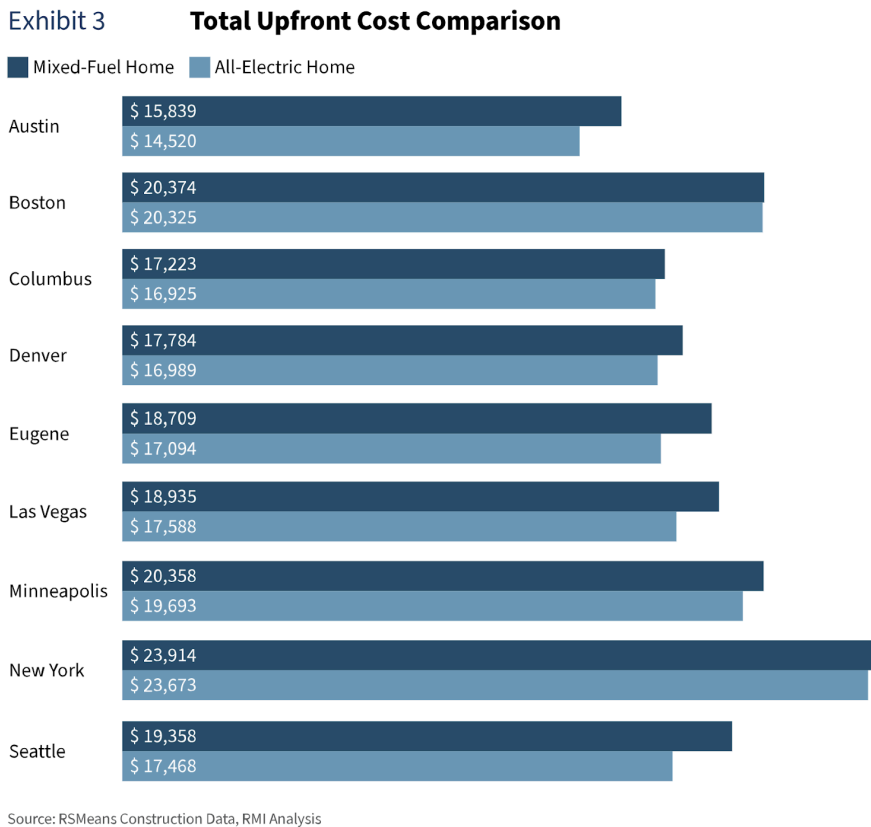
March 25, 2026

Subject: In Favor of H-7081 Next Generation of Public Buildings Act

Dear House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

As a Rhode Islander, member of Climate Action Rhode Island (CARI), and Architectural Green Building Consultant, I am writing in support of the H-7081 Next Generation of Public Buildings Act. This bill requires all-electric construction and renovations for state and municipal buildings open to the public starting in 2028.

Building all-electric is consistently cheaper than building a mixed-fuel building (Fathollahzadeh et al.), so this requirement will not increase costs for the state or the residents of Rhode Island. Additionally, converting to electric reduces fixed monthly fees when gas lines can be closed. Switching to all-electric has the added benefit of reducing reliance on international sources of oil that can be caught in volatile political conflicts.



Additionally, all-electric buildings are significantly healthier for users than buildings that rely on fossil fuels. Having a gas stove in a home can be worse for lungs than second-hand smoke, and gas- or oil-powered heating and cooling is no better (Wessler).

Finally, building all-electric buildings proudly demonstrates the state's commitment to climate goals and shows a path for private companies to follow.

Thank you for your help in saving money, improving occupant health, and overall making buildings better for us and future generations.

Emily Totten

Works Cited

Fathollahzadeh, Mohammad Hassan, et al. "The Economics of Electrifying Buildings:

Residential New Construction." *RMI*, 2022,

<https://rmi.org/insight/the-economics-of-electrifying-buildings-residential-new-construction/>. Accessed 24 March 2026.

Wesseler, Sarah. "Gas stoves pose health risks. Are gas furnaces and other appliances safe to

use? » Yale Climate Connections." *Yale Climate Connections*, 9 March 2023,

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2023/03/gas-stoves-pose-health-risks-are-gas-furnaces-and-other-appliances-safe-to-use/>. Accessed 24 March 2026.