

Rep. David A. Bennett, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
RI House of Representatives

March 24, 2026

SUPPORT: H 7081 Next Generation Public Buildings Act

To: Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to state my support for H7081 Next Generation Public Buildings Act. It is time to pivot away from using fossil fuels to heat our new buildings. The idea that we can switch these buildings from fossil fuels to all-electric after they are built is misguided and delusional. Why not start with a building that uses air-sourced or ground-sourced heat pumps rather than making the expensive switch later when fossil fuel prices get really out of control.

With fossil fuel prices soaring due to the illegal Iran conflict, I don't understand why anyone would think gas or oil is the right choice unless that person is benefiting financially from the high fuel costs! Prices may come down in the near or not so near future, but this is not the last time we will see a spike in fuel costs. Electricity prices are high (due to the high gas prices), but much more stable than fossil fuels. As we add more renewables to the grid that stability will become more enhanced!

This is a common sense bill. Please support its passage.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Joel Gates
Glocester, RI