



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 H7081: An Act Relating To Health And Safety -- Next Generation Public Buildings Act

Dear Representative Bennett:

I write to you in support of H7081: An Act Relating To Health And Safety -- Next Generation Public Buildings Act. This bill prohibits the use of heating systems utilizing fossil fuels as well as air or water heating systems in any state or municipal building open to the public constructed, altered or renovated on or after January 1, 2028.

As a state, we need to lead the way in showing people that implementing building energy systems which are effective, affordable, and sustainable is not only possible, but financially advantageous. This is incredibly important for a state like Rhode Island, where residential and commercial buildings account for 29.5% of all emissions produced, according to Eco RI. Especially given how the state and its municipalities own a large number of properties, including some large buildings over 25,000 square feet (which alone account for 20% of all emission in the state), the time is right to set the standard for sustainability in Rhode Island.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor
CC: Rep. Jennifer Boylan