

clean heat standard 2026

**SUBJECT: Support for House Bill No. 7912** (Clean Heat Standard)

**FROM:** Bill Ibelle, co-chair Climate Action RI politics team  
28 Memorial Rd. Providence, 02906

Chairman Bennett and members of the committee:

I am writing to support the Clean Heat Standard legislation because it solves several top-tier problems, finances those solutions, and improves energy equity in Rhode Island.

### **Huge climate impact**

This bill has the biggest impact on carbon emissions of all of the programs considered in the EC4's Climate Action Strategy. In fact, it has **four times** the impact of the next highest program in the report.

### **Helps control electric rates**

This bill will generate substantial funding for existing clean heat and weatherization programs, which are now funded primarily by electricity rate-payers. If you want to control electric bills, this an effective way to do it.

### **Polluters pay, not ratepayers**

This bill shifts the financial burden of clean energy and energy efficiency programs from ratepayers to the companies that profit from selling fossil fuels in Rhode Island.

### **Promotes equity**

This bill ensures that the cost of our clean energy transition is shared by all ratepayers. Currently those programs are funded through a surcharge on electric bills, but not on the bills for natural gas, oil and propane. As a result, those with electric heat bear a lopsided burden for funding our transition to clean energy. By imposing a small fee on importers of oil, gas, and propane, these costs will be spread out among all users.

### **An incentive for companies to adapt**

By charging a fee on fossil fuel importers, it creates an incentive for those companies to transition their business to serving the clean energy economy. Not only is this good for citizens, it's good for local fossil fuel businesses that currently have their future hitched to an industry that it going to be phased out in the state.

### **Creates jobs**

By speeding our transition to clean energy, this bill will create jobs in a forward-looking sector of the Rhode Island economy.