

Testimony in support of H7912: RI Clean Heat Standard Act

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

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

I support H7912 as a step to accelerate decarbonization, because it *incentivizes* consumers, including low- and moderate-income households, to install clean heat measures like weatherization, and to move from fossil fuels to clean electric technologies like heat pumps and electric appliances. At the same time, it *disincentivizes* delivery of fossil fuels (for heating) by a natural gas utility or another entity that sells heating fuel into or in the state.

Presently, the state energy efficiency program is funded by surcharges on electricity and natural gas, which is unsustainable as we transition towards electrification.

The bill offers a better solution because it will require heating suppliers to provide customers with clean heat services that will be set at a pace sufficient for the thermal sector to achieve lifecycle carbon dioxide emission reductions consistent with the mandates of the Act on Climate. This will provide a more sustainable and equitable funding mechanism for the transition towards electrification, and will accelerate phasing out the sale of fossil fuels.

Since the bill was held and not voted on in 2025, I urge you to not lose more time and to bring the bill to a vote on the House floor in 2026. Considering the lead times to implement the bill, there is urgency. Waiting longer would be too late for reaching our greenhouse gas emission reduction mandates on time, and it would expose Rhode Islanders to more and more unaffordable fossil fuel energy for too long.

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



Dr. Hans Scholl

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