



March 25, 2026

The Honorable David A. Bennett, Chairman  
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7912, An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Rhode Island Clean Heat Standard Act

Dear Chairman Bennett,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing in opposition to House bill 7912 which would create the Rhode Island Clean Heat Standard Act.

H.7912 directs the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to implement a program to force the phase out of fossil fuels, used for heating purposes, by setting targets the heating sector must meet. Starting July 1, 2028, obligated parties – the gas company, petroleum terminals, and companies such as heating fuel delivery companies would be required to reduce their carbon fuel use by switching clients to alternative fuels (for which they receive credit), or buying credits from another entity that has excess credits.

While we support the transition to renewable energy where warranted by economics and adequacy of supply and recognize its importance for environmental sustainability, we are concerned that this legislation will place significant burdens on our businesses and residents at a time when they are already struggling with increased energy costs.

This is one of several pieces of legislation introduced this session that while directed at a specific industry will have significant impacts on the cost of doing business for all Rhode Island employers.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this issue. We ask the Committee not to support H.7912.

Sincerely,

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition  
Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter  
East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce  
National Federation of Independent Business  
Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce  
Propane Gas Association of New England  
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee  
Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee  
Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Environment and Natural Resources Committee members