

Testimony in support of H8167: School Funds and Property

Camille Nixon

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To Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I have to agree with my friend, Hans Scholl, and reiterate his testimony as follows:

"Rhode Island is missing out on a lot of income and savings from converting school buildings to

zero energy capability, instead of going on with business as usual, like continuing to use "natural" gas as the current default (the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools

standard required in the bill also provides a large number of energy and cost saving measures

beyond heating).

Schools often have flat roofs that would support solar energy, and the price of battery storage

is rapidly decreasing; battery storage to bridge times when the sun doesn't shine is not only technically, but also financially feasible. Unfortunately, very little of that opportunity is being

realized, and even solar-ready schools like the Barrington Middle School have not been received solar installations, and are still paying more for energy than necessary.

Our schools also miss out on providing a healthier climate for our students that would result

from using renewable energy instead of tolerating the pollution from burning fossil fuels.

I support the bill because it would set a policy to develop and adopt regulations requiring all

school buildings to meet the standard of zero energy capable by 2037.

I also would like to mention that I support the bill despite my concern that a decade for

implementation is far too long, because I feel that the current supply crisis for fossil fuels due

to our attack on Iran will lead to a rapid fossil fuel shortage and a steep price increase.

We may face a rude awakening that will lead to a run on renewable energy as cheaper, cleaner

and available alternatives, and we may soon have a very different sense of urgency for speeding up the renewables transition to get out of our fossil fuel dependency.

The bill provides a start, and speed can be gained as necessary. The fact is: the faster we act,

the more we will save.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2026.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Cortvriend for

introducing this important bill."

Thank you for helping to protect our planet. ❤️

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