



Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

The Economic Engine for Rhode Island

03/25/2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chairman
House Municipal Government and housing Committee
State House, Providence RI

Re: H-5450 An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – All Electric Building Act

Dear Chairman Casey and Committee Members:

As stated by others, the General Assembly tasked EC4 with recommending approaches to implementing energy benchmarking and performance standards for large public and private buildings. In its final report issued on February 10, the EC4 highlights several issues the Coalition believes are important when considering H.5450.

Among the issues the report raises are the following:

- There is no comprehensive database of large buildings or their current energy sources in the state, and creating such a database of covered buildings would be a time-intensive process.
- The lack of both data on large buildings and infrastructure for automated energy-use reporting prevents the effective evaluation and implementation of statewide benchmarking and performance standards for large municipal and private buildings.
- In contrast, a program applying to certain large state-owned and state-occupied buildings does not hinge on the availability of such data and infrastructure. OER finds that such a program applying to only large state-owned and state-occupied buildings could be implemented beginning as soon as FY26 with just one additional full-time employee.

This is not the time to tie the hands of businesses who may be expanding operations or moving their business to Rhode Island building a new facility. Manufacturers are struggling with increase tariff issues. Our state revenues are in serious condition. This legislation has a far more reaching impact to our state and business climate. The timelines outlined in the legislation will make it extremely difficult to implement in an efficient manner. The EC4 continues its work to implement the Act on Climate and RIMA suggests following their recommendations on the best path forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

David M. Chenevert
Executive Director Rhode Island Manufacturers Association