



## ENERGY MARKETERS ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND

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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Stephen Casey  
Chairman, House Municipal Government & Housing  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H.5450 – Relating to Public Property and Works --- All-Electric Building Act

Chairman Casey and Committee Members:

The Energy Marketers Association of Rhode Island would like to express concerns to H.5450 An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – All-Electric Building Act.

H.5450 “All-electric building or project” means a building or project that uses a permanent supply of electricity, as the sole source of energy needs. An all-electric building or project shall have no natural gas, propane or oil heaters, boilers, piping systems, fixture or infrastructure installed to meet building energy needs.

Concerns:

- Consumer Choice
- Affordability
- Reliability
- Safety

Financial consideration for heating fuel consumers is a great concern especially when they are using Biodiesel to heat their homes and have energy star equipment. Balance of energy is a critical part of keeping Rhode Islanders safe and healthy. An All Electric Building Act creates a vulnerable environment. When the power goes out generators need to be fueled.

Currently the workforce age is 56, and the country has a shortage of HVAC certified employees. Security of inventory and accessibility of equipment and repair must be considered. Most equipment and parts are not made in the USA and continue to have large gaps in inventory causing an insecure heating source. With unknown tariffs throughout the world this could also increase the cost.

The state of Rhode Island retail distributors of home heating oil, referred to as “heating fuel dealers,” provide warmth and comfort to many Rhode Islanders and most companies are small family owned businesses. Rhode Island has led the way for renewable liquid heating fuels, 2017 mandated 5% renewable blend, July 2023 the state mandate went to 10% and on **July 1<sup>st</sup>**, 2025, **20%**. By 2050 the mandate will have a net zero heating fuel. This industry, our hometown businesses, has the solution and has been providing blends of biodiesel and renewable diesel. The electric grid relies on over 80% non-renewable fossil fuel and heating oil is a blend of biodiesel.

EMARI is asking that renewable liquid heating fuels working in step with the states Biodiesel mandate are afforded the right to be issued building permits. EMARI is concerned with consumer choice, affordability, reliability, and safety. For these reasons EMARI is opposed to the bill drafted.

Sincerely,



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