



**Champion Advocacy
Associates**

March 20, 2025

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

Chairman Casey and Committee Members:

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. The Chamber respectfully opposes the passage of H.5450, An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – All Electric Building Act

This bill bans municipalities from granting a building permit for any new commercial, residential or mixed-use building that is not an all-electric building effective December 31, 2026 unless it is deemed physically or technically infeasible. Financial considerations are not sufficient to meet the “infeasible” criteria. Permits cannot be issued for any building or construction to convert an all-electric building into a mixed-fuel building if the application is submitted after December 31, 2026. Hospitals, medical facilities, laboratories for biological research and restaurants are exempt.

There are many questions that must be answered before a program like this is considered. Both the Public Utilities Commission and the EC4 have hired consultants to review various options for meeting the State’s Act on Climate requirements and report back on costs, infrastructure needs, labor requirements, supply issues, etc. To pass legislation choosing one particular path before understanding the ramifications would be unfortunate and perhaps detrimental in the long run.

The Chamber urges this committee to hold off on all building mandates until the consultant reports are reviewed and evaluated.

Respectfully,

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