

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill S2218 BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

ACT OF 2026

From: Barbara K. Watts for Citizens Climate Lobby, Rhode Island Chapter

2 Locust Drive, Kingston, RI

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

Dear Chair Sosnowski and Members of the Committee,

This bill is the logical follow-on to S2260, The Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026 being heard by the Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee. Action in the form of standards to follow up the benchmarking measurements made by S2260 is a logical and powerful step and further delay serves no purpose because this bill builds in the time needed to enact standards at a reasonable pace.

This bill establishes advisory boards immediately to address “technical assistance, owner needs, outreach and education...” prior to dates that standards must be met. Building owners are given time to act as well, submitting interim reports. These appear to be reasonable requirements.

Members of Citizens Climate Lobby support Passing Bill S2218 now. What purpose does another year of delay have except to allow further pollution from these large buildings, the kind of pollution that affects people’s health as well as the climate. Buildings that are efficiently heated and cooled benefit not only health of residents immediately but ultimately reduce costs of running the building for owners and residents alike. This bill would add employment opportunities as well.

Polls by [Yale University Climate Change Communications](#) indicate that a majority of all voters in RI are concerned about human caused climate change. Moreover, they want their state government to do more about it. Passage of this bill can be celebrated as an important step in reduction of emissions that cause climate change.



Rhode Island



Worried

Not Worried

Global warming is caused mostly by human activities



My Governor should do more to address global warming



Local officials should do more to address global warming



Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts, Kingston, RI 02881

State Coordinator, Rhode Island Citizens Climate Lobby