

Testimony in support of S2218: Building Performance Standards Act of 2026

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Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

To Chair Sosnowski and the honorable Members of the Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee:

70% of buildings in the 2050 housing stock have already been built. Without converting most of these existing buildings to use renewable energy sources, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that is mandated by the RI Act on Climate will be impossible.

An important step to achieve such a conversion is to enact a building performance standard, and S2218 tasks the Office of Energy Resources to develop building performance standards for large buildings in Rhode Island that would cause greenhouse gas emissions to decline in line with the act on climate requirements.

I support the bill because it contains a comprehensive process that can actually achieve the desired building performance improvement and greenhouse gas reductions, including definition of the roles of OER and DEM, establishment of an advisory board, regular data assessment and reporting, standard-setting, cooperation with, and support of building owners while transitioning away from fossil fuels, compliance assurance and an appeals process.

Please bring the bill to a vote in 2026.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Senator Kallman for introducing this important bill.



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Apr 14, 2026

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