

Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2218 at the meeting of the Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture, April 15, 2026.

Dear Chair Sosnowski and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, co-VP of policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing in **strong support of 2218**, by Senator Kallman and colleagues – the Building Performance Standards Act of 2026. This bill, if it becomes law, will require that the OER will use the benchmarking data to set emissions reduction requirements for each large building that will be phased in over the next 20 years.

The energy requirements of our large buildings are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Rhode Island, and we must minimize these in order to meet the goals of the act on climate. Eliminating fossil fuels from our buildings thermal requirements will make them healthier and less expensive as well.

ECRI, the Environment Council of Rhode Island has reviewed 2218, and worked with our colleagues over the past several years to make this become law. We support its passage unequivocally.. We urge your committee and the general assembly to do the same. It is time for us to address the greenhouse gas emissions of our large buildings. Please pass the Building Performance Standards Act this year.

Thanks very much for considering my input.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Peter Trafton
Co-VP of Policy,
Environment Council of Rhode Island