

SUBJECT: **Support for House Bill No. 2529** (Next Generation Buildings)

FROM: Bill Ibelle, co-chair Climate Action RI politics team
Providence, 02906

Chairman Sosnowski and members of the committee:

This bill should be a no-brainer. It costs the state nothing. It costs ratepayers nothing. It is common sense legislation that moves us forward on our clean energy transition in a year when costly legislation will be difficult to pass.

This legislation prevents the installation of fossil fuel heating systems in new government buildings, including public schools and universities. It also applies to major renovations. If our goal is to decrease carbon emissions in the state, why on earth would we allow a new building to install a fossil fuel furnace? It just makes sense to require new construction to use clean energy.

This is an easy win. Let's grab it.

This bill is also part of a priority legislation package designed by Climate Action RI to move us forward on our climate goals and reduce electric rates with **virtually no cost** to the state or ratepayers.

In a year when the response to climate legislation is either “We have no money” or “Rates are already too high,” this legislative package provides an affordable solution.

Bill	Cost		Summary	Bill # and sponsors
	Ratepayers	State		
Solar Cost Reduction Act	None	None	Reduces the cost of solar energy by eliminating unnecessary red tape	S2801 H7726 Valverde / Boylan
Plug-in solar	None	None	Allows residents to use safety-certified plug-in solar panels.	S2359 H7269 Valverde / Speakman
Next Generation Buildings	None	None	Prohibits fossil fuel heating in new municipal buildings	S2529 H7081 Urso / Boylan
Benchmarking (large buildings)	None	Minimal	Step 1: Requires owners of large buildings to provide energy use data to an automated data base.	S2260 H7183 Kallman / Kislak
Performance Standards (large buildings)	None	Moderate	Step 2: Sets emissions reduction requirements for large buildings.	S2218 H718 Kallman / Kislak

