

**Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2529 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 2529**, by Senator Urso and colleagues – the next Generation Buildings Act. This bill, if it becomes law, will require that all state and municipal buildings (including schools) must install clean energy heating technology rather than fossil fuels for heating and other thermal uses. This applies to both new and major renovations. In addition to being healthier and promoting the clean energy goals of the act on climate, it is clear that fossil fuel prices are increasing, are erratic, and end up costing more than renewables. Thus, this act ensures the lowest possible cost for heating our public buildings.

Plug-in solar has been used widely in Germany and other countries, is now legal in Utah and Maine and is being developed in many other states, just as we are doing so now in Rhode Island. Electricity costs that will be avoided by using plug-in solar appear to be on the scale of what the governor promises to achieve by disrupting the goals of the Act on Climate – certainly not all the electricity needed by Rhode Island home but enough to make a significant difference for the user.

ECRI, the Environment Council of Rhode Island has reviewed 2529 and chosen to support it. We urge your committee and the general assembly to do the same. It is time for us to cease installing fossil fuel thermal technologies in our state's buildings. Please pass the next Generation Building Act S2658.

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