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May 20, 2026

The Honorable V. Susan Sosnowski, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: SB 3080 - Thermal Energy Network and Job Act

Dear Chair Sosnowski,

I write to express my strong support for S3080, which would facilitate the study and development of thermal energy networks in Rhode Island.

Rhode Island is in the midst of an energy transformation. From Revolution Wind to battery storage in Pascoag, innovative renewable technologies are helping move our state away from fossil fuels and toward a cleaner, zero-emission future. As we continue to expand our clean energy infrastructure, we must also explore new and naturally occurring energy sources that can strengthen our long-term sustainability and resilience. The Thermal Energy Network and Job Act represents an important step forward by establishing a framework to study and evaluate thermal energy networks. This legislation would help Rhode Island explore cleaner and more efficient ways to heat and cool buildings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve public health. It also supports workforce development by involving utilities, labor organizations, and local communities, in the development of the next generation of energy infrastructure. In addition, inclusion of labor standards, we can ensure the creation of high-quality jobs and apprenticeship opportunities.

By focusing first on pilot projects and feasibility studies, the state can carefully assess costs, benefits, and long-term impacts before making larger investments. This thoughtful approach will help move Rhode Island's energy infrastructure forward in a responsible and innovative way. I respectfully urge your support for this legislation.

With kind regards, I remain

Fraternally yours,

DONATO A. BIANCO, JR.
Vice President and
New England Regional Manager

DAB/jm