

Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S3080, Senate Environment and Agriculture Committee, May 20,2026.

Dear Chairwoman Sosnowski and Honorable Committee Members ,

I'm Peter Trafton from Providence, Co-VP of Policy for the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) writing in strong support for S3080, Senator Britto's Thermal Energy Network and Jobs Act.

Geothermal energy is just appearing on the agenda of clean energy technologies in Rhode Island. Massachusetts has several working systems, and a single building system is developing as Rhode Island's 1st in Newport now. Networking geothermal energy is a very encouraging proposition that has been used successfully worldwide. The energy source is totally renewable and greenhouse gas emissions free. Because a network of pipes is involved, this technology offers a great opportunity to keep the methane gas workers employed at good paying union jobs. It's time that Rhode Island began to develop thermal energy networks and use them for heating and cooling.

ECRI strongly supports Sen. Britto's S3080. This is a well thought out program that deserves our support and effort now. For some fortunate reason, the Trump administration does not oppose geothermal energy and may even be a source of funding to make S3080 a reality

Please approve S3080. Now is the time for Rhode Island to begin its own geothermal network program!

Thanks very much for considering my comments in ECRI's behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Trafton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Trafton
Co-VP for Policy
The Environment Council of Rhode Island