

TO: Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee

SUBJECT: **Support for Senate Bill 2260** BUILDING BENCHMARKING AND REPORTING ACT OF 2026

Hearing Thursday April 16

From: Barbara K. Watts for Citizens Climate Lobby of Rhode Island

2 Locust Drive, Kingston, RI

Dear Chair Bissailon and Members of the Committee,

As the State Coordinator for the Rhode Island Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby I represent our 800+ state members.

I applaud the tenacity and leadership of Senator Kallman and cosponsors of this Building Benchmarking and Reporting bill who have repeatedly introduced this important bill over the last several years. Addressing the carbon and other polluting emissions of large buildings is fundamental to improving the health and welfare of all Rhode Island citizens. This bill would measure building emissions, providing critical insight into their impacts, expanding the understanding of each building owner of emissions released from heating and cooling, as well as our understanding of the collective statewide benefits of reductions in carbon emissions. This knowledge leads to cost savings when standards are implemented and would also be a boon to those employed in the resulting labor required for renovations.

What benefit is there to delaying this action? I and members of the RI Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby urge members of this committee to act this session. Polls by [Yale University Climate Change Communications](#) indicate that a **majority** of all voters in RI are concerned about human caused climate change. Moreover, they want their state government to do more about it. Passage of this bill can be celebrated as an important step in reduction of emissions that cause climate change.



Rhode Island



Global warming is caused mostly by human activities





Sincerely,

Barbara K. Watts, Kingston, RI 02881

State Coordinator, Rhode Island Citizens Climate Lobby