

**Trafton testimony in behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island supporting S2260  
Senate Housing and Municipal Government Committee, April 16, 2026.**

Dear Chair Bissaillon 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 strongest support of 2260, the Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026, by Sen. Kallman and colleagues.

Unachievable in the General Assembly during the past few sessions, **the benchmarking bill is a top priority for ECRI again this year.** We urge you to pass it.

This bill, if it becomes law, will establish a system for gathering information from Rhode Island's large buildings (25,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> or more) regarding building characteristics, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions using an automated ENERGY STAR portfolio manager. It is an essential 1<sup>st</sup> part of a program that seeks to help owners reduce expensive energy consumption by these large buildings and ease their transition from fossil fuels to clean energy sources. It has been debated for several years in the General Assembly. So far Rhode Island has done nothing of significance to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from our large buildings. Without this, we will be unable to meet the mandates of the Act on Climate. We must remember that Providence has had a municipal benchmarking program for the past 2 years. It is proceeding well and is not expensive, a previously raised concern by the state government. Now is the time for Rhode Island to adopt 2260's statewide benchmarking program.

Rhode Island is lagging behind many other cities and states in the process of addressing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by our buildings. We can do better. We urge your committee and the entire Senate to pass 2260 the session.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

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