



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon
Chairman
Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: S 2260 An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Building Benchmarking and Reporting Act of 2026

Dear Chairman Bissaillon,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on S 2260, which would institute energy benchmarking requirements for buildings. DEM respectfully opposes this legislation and urges the legislature to instead consider enactment of the proposal found in Article 3, Section 16 of the Governor's FY 2027 budget.

Governor McKee has proposed a building decarbonization program in his Fiscal Year 2027 budget in Article 3, Section 16. This proposal would require the creation of an energy benchmarking and building performance standards program for public buildings of 25,000 gross square feet or larger. Assessing energy usage in large state buildings will help inform building owners of their energy usage and is a right-sized approach to tackling energy benchmarking. This proposal represents an effort that the state can implement with existing resources and would make a meaningful impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings. We urge the legislature to approve the proposal found in the budget.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government
The Honorable Meghan Kallman
Kristen Silvia, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Legislation