



February 29, 2024

Representative David Bennett  
Chair, House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02908

**Re: The Nature Conservancy Supports House Bill 7357 to Prohibit High-Heat Waste Facilities**

The Nature Conservancy **supports** H 7357, which would prohibit the licensing for the construction of new high-heat waste facilities. We thank Representatives McGaw, Spears, Kislak, Cortvriend, Carson, Ajello, Cotter, Henriens, DeSimone, and Messier for introducing it.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization dedicated to protecting the land and waters on which all life depends. We have chapters in all fifty U.S. states and in nearly 80 countries around the globe. Here in Rhode Island, we steward more than 14,000 acres of protected land and protect an additional 35,000 acres with partner organizations. At The Nature Conservancy, we realize that we cannot succeed in our core mission without seriously addressing climate change.

Rhode Island has clear and mandatory emissions reductions targets across the economy. High-heat waste facilities as defined by this legislation will produce harmful emissions and directly conflict with the state's climate goals set forth in the 2021 Act on Climate. Additionally, we have concerns over the siting of these facilities if this legislation does not pass and they were not prohibited. This type of infrastructure is often placed in vulnerable and low-income neighborhoods, having the largest impact on frontline communities who are already bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate change.

We respectfully ask that you pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Angela Tuoni  
The Nature Conservancy  
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