

House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Representative David Bennett, Chair  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

## **SUPPORT FOR H7617 - The Building Decarbonization Act**

March 21, 2024

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the Committee,

My name is Joel Gates. I am a resident of Glocester, Rhode Island. I am writing in strong support for the Building Decarbonization Act. This Act will reduce emissions from existing buildings and new construction. In order for Rhode Island to achieve the mandated goals of the Act on Climate, H7617 must be passed into law!

I am fortunate to live in an all-electric home. My family and I made the all-electric transition just over 10 years ago when we got rid of our oil-fired boiler and installed heat pumps. We have had zero problems with the heat pump system and no complaints about a cold house. I still hear misinformation that heat pumps won't work in this climate or one needs to have fossil fuel backup for the cold snaps, but heat pumps are being successfully deployed in Maine in very high numbers. Also the current updated heat pumps are able to handle the cold weather more efficiently than my 10 year old ones.

So along with passing this Act, we need to educate the public and installers that this technology not only works well in our environment, but is better for our environment (indoors and out).

I urge this Committee to pass H7617 and support it in the full House. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Joel Gates  
Glocester, RI