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From: Westlake, Robert <robert_westlake@brown.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:20 PM
To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB7617

Chairman Benneett and Committee Members:

I am a 50 year resident of Rhode Island and over time I have seen our state take important steps to maintain and improve our wonderful environment. With the reality of Climate Change presenting an alarm almost every day it has become clear that once again our state must continue to make important changes. I am writing now to encourage you to begin one important group of changes by supporting H7617, The Building Decarbonization Act.

We have too long taken for granted that our large buildings produce large amounts of Greenhouse gasses. As we try to save the planet we can no longer look the other way but must take some action. The Building Decarbonization Act sets on the path towards that goal much in the sameway Rhode Island has already established in the fields of Electricity generation and Transportation. Bill H7617 gets us started by measuring and logging greenhouse gas output of large buildings and which must happen before a correct path to mitigation. Also, with an important step towards prevention it sets forth a plan for the gradual conversion to electricity and the requirement for the use of electricity in new construction.

These are both major and important measures for our future as a state and as a nation. Climate change is upon us NOW. We cannot afford to wait or take small steps or be held back by the inertia of vested interests and tradition.

Please support H7617.

Thank you,

Robert Westlake MD
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