

Representative Bennett, Chair  
House Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Re: Support for H7782 – The Clean Heat Standard Act

March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Bennett and members of the Committee,  
My name is Amanda Babson and I am a resident of Narragansett, RI. I am writing to express my support for H7782 the Clean Heat Standard Act. I am a homeowner who had a heat pump installed in my home two years ago. It has worked great and made my home more comfortable and energy efficient. The installation process plus rebate/incentive was slow and confusing to navigate. We need a statewide policy that makes it easy and affordable to install the amount of heat pumps necessary to meet the targets of the Act on Climate legislation. A Clean Heat Standard (CHS) does just that by requiring heating suppliers such as gas utilities and oil and propane dealers to provide customers with gradually increasing percentages of clean heat services, phasing out the sale of fossil fuels. Providers would be required to obtain a certain amount of "Clean Heat Credits", which would be generated by deploying "clean heat measures" such as heat pumps, energy efficiency, clean district energy, weatherization, and other verified low-carbon options. Over time, the number of credits each heating provider would be required to obtain would increase in line with the Act on Climate's greenhouse gas reduction mandate of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.

The Clean Heat Standard Act would create a sustainable funding mechanism for electrification. It wouldn't require consumers to make any particular clean heat choices – mandate is on the heating suppliers. Given good options, consumers are going to want the benefits of heat pumps. By requiring that 40% of the clean heat credits be delivered to low-and-moderate income consumers, the bill builds in equity. It should just be homeowners like myself who can afford the up front investment who benefit from the long term savings.

In order to achieve the Act on Climate, we must implement statewide policies that drive the transition toward electrification. A Clean Heat Standard helps us get there. I respectfully urge the Committee and full General Assembly to vote in favor of its passage.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Babson  
61 Inez St  
Narragansett, RI  
02882